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REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF BURMA

FOR THE YEAR 1918-19.

PART I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

1. The momentous decision, which is applicable to Burma as well as to the other Provinces of the Indian Empire, to modify the present system of administration and to introduce a measure of Constitutional Reform, with a view to the progressive realisation of full responsible Government by the elected representatives of the people of the country, has naturally been by far the most important event in the political history of the Province since the annexation of Upper Burma in the year 1886. Accordingly, it is to this question and the numerous intricate and difficult problems connected therewith that the attention of the Local Government has during the past year been mainly devoted. In paragraph 198 of their Report on Indian Constitutional Reform, the Right Honourable the Secretary of State and His Excellency the Viceroy expressed the opinion that the problem of the political evolution of Burma must be left for separate and future consideration. This opinion was subsequently endorsed by the members of the Joint Select Committee on the Government of India Bill in the following terms: "After hearing evidence the Committee have not advised that Burma should be included within the scheme. They do not doubt but that the Burmese have deserved and should receive a constitution analogous to that provided in this Bill for their Indian fellow subjects. But Burma is only by accident part of the responsibility of the Governor-General of India. The Burmese are as distinct from the Indians in race and language as they are from the British." Inasmuch as the political development of the Province is thus to be on special lines adapted to local conditions and circumstances, it was decided not to await the outcome of the proposals for the rest of India, as finally sanctioned by Parliament, but to formulate a separate scheme of Constitutional Reform for Burma without delay. In order that the recommendations might as far as possible be acceptable to the people and in conformity with their wishes, a tentative scheme was published for public discussion and criticism, and modified proposals, embodying a scheme that is analogous to, but not identical with that for the rest of India, were then submitted for the consideration of the Government of India.

2. As a necessary corollary of the proposed devolution of power in Provincial affairs, the creation and development of representative institutions in the sphere of local self-government also received attention. As regards urban administration, the Municipal Act is to be extended to all urban areas of sufficient size and importance, and all Municipal Committees will be mainly elective and almost entirely non-official. They will elect their own office-bearers, and such control as may be necessary in the interests of the general administration will be exercised from without, and not, as heretofore, from within. In rural areas local bodies similar to the District and Local Boards of other Provinces do not at

present exist in Burma. As such bodies form an integral part of the machinery in the proposed scheme of Constitutional Reform, preliminary steps were taken with a view to their creation and the drafting of an enactment defining their constitution and functions. A public pronouncement was made as to the main lines to be followed in this new legislation, the essential principle of which will be the transfer of much of the power in purely local affairs, hitherto exercised by the Deputy Commissioner, to District Councils and Circle Boards, both of which will contain a substantial elected non-official majority and be entirely free from internal official control.

3. The progress of other schemes for the moral and material welfare of the Province and for the reorganization of various branches of the administration was somewhat retarded by financial stringency and by shortage of staff, both of which were the natural aftermath of the war. Nevertheless, several most important measures were substantially advanced, while many other projects were examined and discussed. Of these, the Rangoon Development Trust Bill was perhaps the most important. The main object of this measure, which was introduced into the Legislative Council during the year, is to provide a special agency to secure the improvement, expansion and development of the City of Rangoon on correct and sanitary lines. The Burma Habitual Offenders Restriction Bill became law during the year. This measure is largely based on a similar enactment in force in the Punjab, and is designed to give greater control than that afforded by the Criminal Procedure Code over the movements of habitual criminals. The arduous work of drafting the Rangoon University Bill, with its accompanying statutes and regulations, was completed after careful consideration by a strong committee, which included five experts from India, and it now awaits the approval of the Secretary of State and the Government of India, prior to its introduction into the Provincial Legislative Council.

4. Friendly relations were maintained between the Burma Government and the Siamese, French and Chinese authorities beyond the borders of the Province. In the Shan States the year was one of quiet progress, and, in spite of the ravages of influenza and an unfavourable rainfall, the people were, on the whole not unprosperous. In the Chin Hills the outstanding feature of the year was the successful conclusion of the operations against the rebel Kuki tribes in the Somra Tract to the north-west of the Upper Chindwin District and in the Manipur State. The Chiefs responsible for the rebellion were appropriately punished, and measures were taken to bring the Kuki tribes under effective administration. The continuance of these operations in the Somra Tract, however, necessitated adherence to a passive policy within the Chin Hills proper, and no active steps were taken against the Lawhtu tribes, which continued to maintain a defiant attitude in the south of the administered area. With this exception the tribes in both administered and unadministered territory were peaceful and friendly.

5. The vast majority of the population of the Province being agriculturists, the two main factors in the internal prosperity of the country are the crops and the prices current for agricultural produce. Unfortunately, a number of circumstances combined to cause the agricultural season to compare unfavourably with the exceptionally good one of the previous year. The rainfall was erratic and ill distributed, there was a serious outbreak of rinderpest, and the prevalence of influenza was responsible for an exceptionally heavy mortality and interfered seriously with agricultural operations. Another unfavourable factor was the continued rise in the price of all imported articles, more especially in that of cotton piece-goods, which may almost be ranked as necessities and which have quadrupled in value since the beginning of the present century. On the other hand, there was a welcome recovery in the price of nearly every kind of agricultural produce. In Lower Burma the average price received by cultivators for their paddy was better by quite 30 per cent., and in Upper Burma the increase in the price of staples, such as maize, gram and sessamum, amounted to between 50 and nearly 100 per cent. While it would be idle to pretend that cultivators enjoyed

the same prosperity as in favourable years before the war, and there has probably been some decline in the general standard of living, there is at the same time no reason to suppose that the economic position of the great mass of the people has been seriously or permanently affected, and there have been no indications of acute distress or famine.

6. The demand of land revenue proper rose from Rs. 3,12.78 lakhs to Rs. 3,14.32 lakhs, but owing to floods and the unfavourable character of the season the amount remitted rose from Rs. 3 lakhs to Rs. 13 lakhs, and the amount actually collected fell from Rs. 3,00.22 lakhs to Rs. 2,99.60 lakhs. Except in the Arakan Division, where, owing to lack of shipping and low prices, conditions were quite abnormal, the revenue was collected easily and without undue resort to coercive measures. Settlement operations were in progress in six districts during the year and revised rates of land revenue were sanctioned in the Akyab District. In addition to the normal work of supplementary survey, progress was made with the topographical survey of forest areas in the Irrawaddy Delta, and with the survey of areas leased for rubber cultivation and mining in the Tenasserim Division. It is shortly proposed to examine the whole Land Records system of the Province with the object of ascertaining whether some modifications in the direction of increased simplicity are not desirable, and matters such as the introduction of a system of permanent holding numbers and of fixed assessment, and better co-ordination of the Land Records with the Settlement Department will then be considered.

7. The work of the Co-operative Department continued to expand and agricultural societies are now established in 26 of the 37 districts of the Province. The number of societies of all kinds rose from 3,056 to 3,612 and their net working capital from Rs. 1.22 lakhs to Rs. 1.52 lakhs. The continued growth in strength and resources of the Provincial Central Bank at Mandalay, the increase of Burmans' deposits in district central banks and in urban societies, and the remarkable vitality shown by the latter type of society were satisfactory features of the year's working. The development of town banks amongst traders and shop-keepers in Lower Burma is mainly responsible for a remarkable increase of approximately 50 per cent. in the numbers and memberships of non-agricultural societies, and it is evident that these town banks are satisfying a very real demand for credit by the industries and trades of the middle classes in towns. Progress was, however, not confined to urban societies, and agricultural societies, which of course form the vast majority of the whole number of societies, also increased, not only in numbers and membership, but also in efficiency. No fresh colonies financed by Government through the medium of co-operative societies were founded during the year, and the existing colonies languished somewhat from want of offices to supervise them.

8. Much important research work was carried out by the Agricultural Department during the year, and considerable progress has been made with investigations into the cotton problems of the Province. A satisfactory pure strain, both as regards yield and ginning percentage, has been secured and distributed to selected cultivators and a small Government ginnery is in course of erection at a suitable centre to deal with the produce and keep the seed pure. In Lower Burma the strains of pure rice bred by the Department continued to do well, and the fact that millers paid a premium of Rs. 5 to Rs. 15 per 100 baskets to secure the produce afforded tangible evidence of the improvement effected. The most suitable varieties of grain for the new and expanding trade in parboiled rice were determined, and other important tests were carried out with the object of improving the yield of groundnut, wheat and sessamum. The work of this Department has hitherto been seriously hampered by lack of staff, but during the year comprehensive proposals for the remedying of this defect were accepted by the Local Government, and are now under the consideration of the Government of India. Steps were also taken to provide adequate facilities for agricultural research and the construction of the new Agricultural College and Research

Institute at Mandalay was begun. When this building is completed a serious handicap, under which the Department has hitherto laboured, will be removed and results of far-reaching importance may be confidently anticipated.

9. One of the most gratifying features of the year's administration was a further appreciable decline in the volume of true cognizable crime. This decrease is all the more satisfactory in that it was not, as in the previous year, confined to minor offences, but was shared to a substantial extent by all the more serious types of offences against the person and against property. Though this sustained reduction of crime is most promising, it must nevertheless be admitted that the volume of crime in Burma as compared with other Indian Provinces is still excessive, and this problem continued to engage the earnest attention of the Local Government. Detailed investigations were made during the year in the heavy criminal districts of Lower Burma with the object of ascertaining whether economic causes might not be responsible for the excessive criminality of the Province. The difficulty of diagnosing these essential underlying causes, coupled with the absence of any active public opinion against offenders, are the main obstacles to effective measures of reform. The decrease in the volume of crime naturally reacted on the work of the criminal courts, and the number of true cases dealt with by them fell by more than 11,000, including a satisfactory decrease in Lower Burma of 1,697 offences under the Indian Penal Code. The policy of improving the status and emoluments of village headmen was continued, and in certain districts there is some reason to suppose this has already been attended by good results, as evidenced by increased activity in the prevention and detection of crime. Measures were taken to emphasise the representative character of the office, and a further proposal to appoint a subordinate village official to relieve the headman of some of his drudgery and to supplement the collection of information by the village beat police officials is at present under consideration. The daily average number of prisoners confined in the jails of the Province fell considerably and was the lowest figure recorded for the past ten years. The decrease is mainly accounted for by the formation of a Jail Porter Corps for service in Mesopotamia and the labour of other prisoners was also utilized in forest work and in mining for wolfram in the Tavoy District. Promising results were obtained at the Juvenile Jail at Meiktila, and progress was made with a scheme for the establishment of an experimental seed farm at this institution. The number of subsidiary jails, which are not under the control of the Inspector-General of Prisons, rose from 17 to 20, but a serious outbreak of prisoners confined in the subsidiary jail at Kyaiklat revealed serious administrative defects in this system, and steps are being taken to reduce the need for such jails at out-stations by transferring the trial of the more serious cases of crime to district headquarters.

There was a continuance of the decline in the volume of civil litigation, and the number of suits instituted fell to the lowest figure recorded for the past twenty years. Depression in trade, contraction of credit and a realisation by creditors that the times were unpropitious for the recovery of debts were the factors mainly responsible for this very marked decrease of litigation and also for the lack of elasticity displayed by the revenue derived from court-fee stamps and the registration of documents. Progress was made with the schemes which are now before the Local Government for the formation of a High Court for the whole of Burma, and for the reorganization of the various Judicial Services of the Province.

10. Though tonnage was less scarce than in the previous year, and many restrictions were removed after the signing of the armistice, the maritime trade of the Province continued to suffer from the general disorganization of industry and shipping caused by the war. The value of the total trade in private merchandise rose by 27 per cent., but this was due to the higher level of prices, more especially in the case of imported cotton yarn and piece-goods, and the volume of trade decreased substantially. A prominent feature of the foreign import trade was an increase of 76 per cent. in the value of importations from Japan,

which country now claims 22 per cent. of the total private foreign imports. Abnormal factors in the export trade were the large purchases of the 1918 crop of rice and beans made on behalf of the Royal Commission on Wheat Supplies and the introduction of a food control in India, in which the Burma rice crop of the year 1919 played an important part. The policy adopted in respect of the 1919 crop was to fix a maximum export price and to require the licensing of all exports. The bulk of the crop was reserved to meet the strong Indian demand, due both to the failure of the monsoon in India and to the fact that Indian stocks had been depleted to provide food for soldiers engaged in the war. The value of exports of rice to India accordingly rose from Rs. 5,00 lakhs to Rs. 8,52 lakhs, while that of exports to foreign countries rose to a considerably less extent, namely from Rs. 13,07 lakhs to Rs. 16,42 lakhs. Though this system of control undoubtedly prevented millers and brokers from deriving abnormal profits from the world shortage of cereals to the extent they otherwise might, it undoubtedly prevented undue inflation and speculation at the expense of the domestic as well as the foreign consumer, while the export price was fixed by the Controller at a sufficiently high level to leave cultivators a substantial margin of profit.

As in the previous year the work of the Public Works Department was much hampered by the absence of many officers employed on military duty, and by the need for economy. Good progress was, however, made with new roads opening up the Myitkyina and Putao Districts, and communications in the Tavoy District were considerably improved in the interests of the tin and wolfram mining industry. Satisfactory progress was also made in many districts with the replacement of temporary wooden bridges by permanent structures and with the reclamation of towns in the Delta of the Irrawaddy River. The earth-work on a section of the proposed railway between Pymmana and Magwe was completed by Turkish prisoners of war, and the same agency was also employed on an extension of 18 miles of the Southern Shan States Railway. A reconnaissance survey to determine the best alignment for a railway on the metre gauge to serve the mines of the Burma Mines Company at Nantun was carried out, and various projects for branch lines in the Tenasserim Division were discussed. The completion of the Ye-u Canal in the Shwebo District resulted in an increase of over 30,000 acres to the irrigated area of the Province, which now slightly exceeds 300,000 acres irrigated by major irrigation works and 1,100,000 acres irrigated by minor irrigation works.

The principal industries of the Province continued to be rice-milling, saw-milling, petroleum refining and the transport industries, all of which derive their main supplies of labour from the immigrant Indian population. Conditions were generally unfavourable to any great industrial development, and the attention of Government was chiefly directed to the improvement of existing factories from the point of view of sanitation and safety. Minor village industries also languished, and weaving suffered from the high price of yarn. Investigations with a view to the encouragement of these village industries were, however, undertaken, and an interesting result obtained was the rediscovery of the lost art of producing red-figure black pottery similar to the ancient Greek black pottery.

The output of both silver and lead from the mines worked by the Burma Mines Company at Bawdwin in the Northern Shan States increased considerably and amounted to just under two million ounces of silver, and approximately 19,000 tons of lead. The wolfram-mining industry received a severe set-back on the Munitions Board in England, after the conclusion of the armistice, withdrawing its guarantee to pay a fixed price per unit and estimates of the compensation payable to mine-owners on this account are in course of preparation. The high price of tin, on the other hand, led to considerable activity in tin mining in the Tavoy and Mergui Districts, where this mineral is chiefly found. The output of petroleum increased slightly to 275 million gallons, an important feature of the year being the development and equipment of a promising new oil-field in the Upper Chindwin District.

The most important event in the forest administration of the year was the decision finally arrived at to introduce a new system of forest management. Under this revised system concentrated exploitation both of teak and other timber

to be followed by complete regeneration by elastic methods varying with the requirements of each type of forest. The numerous problems arising out of this new policy, such as increase of staff, the organization and education of a labour force, the erection of Government saw-mills, the establishment of markets outside the Province and sylvicultural research, were under consideration. Owing to lack of freight to India, the outturn of teak declined, but that of fuel increased considerably, owing to the continued scarcity of coal.

II. The gross revenue receipts of the Province for the year of report rose from Rs. 12,40 lakhs to Rs. 14,64 lakhs. The increase was common to the receipts credited to Imperial as well as to those credited to Provincial Funds, the former rising from Rs. 4,50 lakhs to Rs. 5,43 lakhs and the latter from Rs. 5,56 lakhs to Rs. 6,49 lakhs. Receipts under the head "Land Revenue" rose by Rs. 37 lakhs, but this was mainly due to the realisation of arrears, the collection of which had been suspended, owing to the unsatisfactory condition of the paddy market in the previous year. Collections of land revenue proper in the current year in fact fell slightly, though this decrease was counterbalanced by an improvement in the fishery revenue. The salt revenue rose substantially, owing to an increase in the output of local salt, which reached the highest figure ever recorded, and for the first time contributed more than half the total revenue derived from this source. An improvement of Rs. 28 lakhs in Customs revenue was due partly to general enhancement in the value of all commodities, partly to the shipment of rice on account of the Wheat Commission and partly to larger receipts from excise duty on motor spirit and tobacco. Receipts from income-tax rose by no less than Rs. 21 lakhs, mainly on account of more accurate assessment in Rangoon, and also on account of the assessment of super-tax. Gross expenditure increased from Rs. 8,68 lakhs to Rs. 9,32 lakhs, the increase being shared by both Imperial and Provincial heads of expenditure. The operations against the Kuki rebels entailed considerable extra expense, and larger grants were given to local bodies for education. A portion of the increased expenditure was productive, such as the amount spent on irrigation and on departmental extraction of timber. The need for economy was, however, kept in mind, and expenditure on communications and buildings was restricted to a minimum, in spite of the urgent necessity of large allotments for these purposes.

The new notes of the Rs. 1 and Rs. 2-8 denominations were successfully put into circulation and these notes at the end of the financial year supplied more than 11 per cent. of the total volume of currency. Their introduction was, however, attended by a marked depreciation of paper currency throughout the Province. This at one time caused considerable anxiety, owing to the severe drain on the Rangoon Currency Office and the necessity for maintaining the convertibility of Government paper. Appropriate measures were taken to alleviate possible hardship and to check speculation, and the demand for small coin in exchange for the one-rupee note is now being fully met both at Rangoon and at the District Treasuries.

12. Burma did not escape the universal epidemic of influenza, and the year was one of the most unhealthy ever experienced. The provincial death ratio rose to the extremely high figure of 39.59 per thousand of the estimated population, as compared with the previous five years' mean of 25.28. This enormous excess mortality was accompanied by a substantial fall in the birth rate, owing to the particularly harmful effects produced by influenza upon women during pregnancy and child-birth. The disease was first recognized in Rangoon in June 1918, and by the end of the year had spread to every part of the Province, including the remotest corners of the Shan States and the Chin Hills. The mortality was everywhere very heavy, and it is estimated that the total number of deaths from this cause in the whole Province was not less than 200,000. All measures possible with a depleted medical staff were taken to cope with the disease, special hospitals were opened in Rangoon, special dispensaries for the free distribution of medicine were equipped, and in Cantonments a certain measure of segregation was successful; but, owing to the nature, sudden onset, and pandemic rapidity of the disease, it was impossible to check the spread of the infection. Plague,

cholera and small-pox also claimed more victims than in the previous year, but in the case of these diseases, it was possible to take effective preventive measures, and the mortality from these causes was kept within reasonable limits. There was a satisfactory extension of voluntary effort directed to the reduction of infant's mortality, but much remains to be done. Progress was made with the scheme for providing much-needed additional accommodation for lunatics.

13. The most important educational event of the year, namely the framing of a scheme for the University of Rangoon, has already been mentioned, but in other respects also the year was signalised by other measures making for better educational organization. Improvements in the curricula of Anglo-Vernacular High Schools and of European Schools were introduced. New principles and procedure with reference to the recognition of such schools were adopted, and the whole system of educational finance, in so far as it affects Aided and Anglo-Vernacular and European Schools, was thoroughly overhauled. By the constitution of Advisory Boards to discuss and make recommendations relating to the curriculum and examination of Secondary Schools, a step was taken towards the co-ordination of Secondary and Higher Education and the Department was strengthened by a closer association with non-official skill and experience. A new system, designed to simplify the finance and control of Vernacular Schools, was under consideration during the year. Owing to the economic effects of the war, the attendance of pupils in the lower primary vernacular standards fell, and there was a further decrease in the number of Monastic Schools. On the other hand, there was a slight increase in the number of pupils attending Secondary Schools, and also in the number of students on the rolls of the Government College and of the Judson College at Rangoon, both of which are affiliated to the Calcutta University.

14. From the above narrative it will be seen that in nearly every department of the administration the after-effects of the war continued to be felt, and that normal conditions have not yet been restored. The administration was hampered by a serious shortage of officers and by financial stringency, and the high price of imported commodities affected all classes of the community. For the cultivating classes, which form the vast majority of the population, the year was not a prosperous one, influenza levied a heavy toll, the crops were indifferent, and there was a serious recrudescence of rinderpest. Though circumstances were thus unfavourable to sweeping changes, the year was by no means barren of results, but, on the contrary, was one of active preparation, not only for the many new developments arising out of Constitutional Reform, but also for progress in other directions, when more settled conditions permit.

The prospects before Burma are bright, but it needs the co-operation of all classes of the community, if full advantage is to be taken of them. It would be deplorable if this co-operation were to be jeopardised by the introduction of imported political strife, so foreign to the nature of the people of the country, and so inimical to their true interests.

PART II.

DEPARTMENTAL CHAPTERS.

NOTE.—The departmental reports and other references on which this *Report on the Administration of Burma* is based, are noted at the beginning of each chapter. The departmental reports do not all cover the same period. The Reports on the Administration of Civil and Criminal Justice, the Police, Prisons, the Registration Department, the Salt Revenue, the Measures adopted for the Extermination of Wild Animals and Poisonous Snakes, Lunatic Asylums, the Report of the Chemical Examiner, the Report on the Working of the Indian Factories Act, 1911, and the Resolution on the Reports on Village Administration deal with events which took place within the calendar year 1918; the Shan States, Chin Hills and North-Eastern Frontier Reports, the Land Revenue, Land Records and Forest Administration Reports, the Season and Crop Report, the Report on the Working of the Co-operative Societies Act and the Report of the Department of Agriculture are concerned with the agricultural year from the 1st July 1918 to the close of June 1919. All other reports cover the twelve months of the official or financial year that ended on the 31st March 1919.

CHAPTER I.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

REFERENCES—

Report on the Administration of the Shan and Karsani States for the year ended the 30th June 1919.
Report on the Administration of the Chin Hills for the year ended the 30th June 1919.
Report on the North-Eastern Frontier for the year ended the 30th June 1919.
Season and Crop Report of Burma for the year ended the 30th June 1919.
Land Records Administration Report of Burma for the year ended the 30th June 1919.
Report on the Civil Veterinary Department (including the Insein Veterinary School), Burma, for the year ended the 30th June 1919.
Report on the Sanitary Administration of Burma for the year 1918.

PHYSICAL.

Physical Features of the Country, Area, Climate and Chief Staples.

For information on this subject reference should be made to paragraphs 1 to 8 of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1911-12.

POLITICAL.

Historical Summary.

For information on this subject reference should be made to paragraphs 9 to 18 of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1911-12.

Form of Administration.

For information on this subject reference should be made to paragraphs 19 to 38 of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1911-12 and to paragraph 1 of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1914-15.

Character of Land Tenures : System of Survey and Settlement.

For information on this subject reference should be made to paragraphs 39 to 55 of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1911-12.

Civil Divisions of British Territory.

For information on this subject reference should be made to paragraphs 56 to 68 of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1911-12 and to paragraph 2 of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1914-15.

Details of the last Census : Tribes and Languages.

For information on this subject reference should be made to paragraphs 69 to 76 of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1911-12.

Changes in the Administration.

The
Lieutenant-
Governor.

1. The Hon'ble Sir Reginald Henry Craddock, K.C.S.J., I.C.S., was Lieutenant-Governor of Burma throughout the year.

Administra-
tive
territorial
changes.

2. The headquarters of the Upper Chindwin District, together with the headquarters of the Kindat Subdivision and Township, were transferred from Kindat to Mawlaik, with effect from the 6th May 1918. The Tharrawaddy District, which formerly consisted of the six townships of Tharrawaddy, Minhla, Letpadan, Gyobingauk, Nattalin and Monyo, was rearranged and split up into the nine townships of Tharrawaddy, Minhla East, Minhla West, Letpadan East, Letpadan West, Gyobingauk, Nattalin Monyo and Zigôn, with effect from the 18th May 1918. Minor rectifications of township boundaries were also sanctioned in the Pegu, Thatôn, Toungoo, Myingyan, Ma-ubin, Minbu and Magwe Districts. Owing to the disappearance of a natural boundary, the limits of Rangoon Town were redefined with the previous sanction of the Governor-General in Council. To commemorate the long and distinguished service of the Hon'ble Mr. W. A. Hertz, C.S.I., on the North-Eastern frontier, the headquarters of the Putao District were renamed Fort Hertz. Occasion was also taken to reintroduce the names Fort Harrison and Fort Morton to designate the posts at Sadôn and Sima in the Myitkyina District. These names commemorate the services of distinguished frontier officers in the years 1892 and 1893, but their use in official correspondence was temporarily abandoned for political reasons, which no longer exist. An additional Public Works Circle of Superintendence, known as the Delta Circle, was constituted with effect from the 22nd July 1919. This new circle took over the Embankment and Môn Canals Divisions and the Pegu-Sittang Canal Subdivision from the Irrigation Circle and the Bassein and Myaungmya Divisions from the Pegu Circle. In the Rangoon Circle of Superintendence the Hanthawaddy Division was abolished, and a Rangoon Division reconstituted and a new Lighthouse Division formed with effect from the 1st May 1918. Other transfers of Public Works Subdivisions affecting the Meiktila, Toungoo, Pegu and Amherst Divisions were also made.

Additions to
and changes
in the ad-
ministrative
staff.

3. The cadre of the Provincial Civil Service was enlarged by two appointments in the fourth and sixth grades, respectively, consequent on the inclusion in that service of the two senior appointments of Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies. Owing to the continued employment of a large number of officers of the Civil Police on military duty, the additional temporary appointment of two Deputy Inspectors-General and eight Deputy Superintendents of

Police was sanctioned for the period of the war and for six months after its conclusion. The temporary appointment of an Archaeological Assistant for five years was sanctioned with effect from the 12th September 1918. Consequent on the formation of the new Delta Circle, an addition of one Superintending Engineer was made to the cadre of the Provincial Establishment.

CHIEF. I.—
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GRAPHY.

Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

(i) Shan and Karenni States.

[Southern Shan States: 37 States, area 36,154 square miles, population 836,574, tribute Rs. 2,52,000; Karenni: five States, area 4,280 square miles, population 63,628, tribute Rs. 5,350; Northern Shan States: five States, area 26,594 square miles, population 480,390, tribute Rs. 1,65,500; Mong Mit: area 3,286 square miles, population 44,708, tribute Rs. 20,000; Hsawnghsup (Thaungdud), area 540 square miles, population 7,396, tribute Rs. 500; Singkalang Khamti (Zingalein Kanti), area 2,000 square miles, population 1,984, tribute Rs. 100; Khamti Long (Kanti gyi) or Bhor Khamti, area 200 square miles, population (approximately) 6,221, tribute Rs. 2,500 (approximate).]

4. The chief features of the year were the high price of all commodities and an abnormal amount of sickness with a heavy death roll, including one Chief, Hkun Num, K.S.M., *Sawbwa* of Mōngpan. Though lacking educational and other advantages, the death of this Chief is to be regretted, as he was a good administrator and a man of sterling character, who enjoyed the respect and affection of his people. In Mōng Nawng State there has been a marked and welcome improvement, and, generally speaking, the administration of the majority of the Chiefs was distinctly creditable. Unsatisfactory administrations were, however, those of Yawngghwe, where disregard of the sanctioned budget caused financial embarrassment, of Hsahung, of Lawksawk and of some of the Minor Myelat States. In Mōng Hsu also the conduct of the *Myosa* was such as to render advisable a further extension of his period of probation.

The South-
ern Shan
States.

A sum of Rs. 4,10,000 was subscribed by the States to the Indian War Loan of 1918. Recruiting for the Burma Rifles continued and 272 men were obtained for that corps and 14 for the Burma Sappers and Miners. *Khilats* signed by the Lieutenant-Governor were presented to the *Sawbwa* of Yawngghwe and the *Myosa* of Mōng Kung in recognition of loyal help rendered during the war.

The condition of communications with Yunnan showed no improvement, and traders, owing to the disturbed state of the trans-frontier roads, had to travel in large and well armed parties. Considerable dislocation was caused in Keng Hung by a Muhsō rebellion, which the Chinese eventually succeeded in repressing with the aid of a well-known brigand leader. Though no conference with Chinese officials took place, friendly relations were maintained, and cordial intercourse with the authorities of French Indo-China and Northern Siam continued.

In addition to a detachment of 200 men furnished for the Kuki operations, the Military Police battalion supplied a further 89 volunteers for active service, making a total, since the outbreak of war, of 877 men out of a sanctioned strength of 1,130 men. The number of cases reported to the Government Civil Police was 372 as against 379 the previous year, but most of these cases were of a very petty nature. Good work was done at Kalaw in verifying the antecedents of Indian strangers. The work of the State and village police was somewhat indifferent and calls for no remark. There was a substantial decrease in all forms of crime, the total number of true cases reported in the year falling from 1,210 in 1917-18 to 1,083 in the year of report. Violent crime fell from 45 to 39 cases, including 29 cases of murder and culpable homicide. Chinamen in the Kengtung Subdivision were, as usual, the victims and the perpetrators of the worst crime of the year, namely the murder of three muleteers and the looting of Rs. 20,000 worth of property from a caravan.

The number of civil suits filed increased from 711 valued at Rs. 1,18,160 to 721 valued at Rs. 1,42,585 and of suits disposed of from 695 to 719. Two-thirds of the suits were for less than Rs. 100 and only one was for over Rs. 5,000. Two requests for extradition were received from the Chinese authorities, but in

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ADMINISTRATION OF
THE LAND.

2,218 acres in the area assessed. In the Ma-ubin District the unfavourable agricultural conditions were aggravated by wide breaches in the Yandoon Island embankment and in private bunds in the Pantanaw and Danabyu Townships, and the revenue demand fell by Rs. 24,647. In the Myaungmya District also the demand fell by Rs. 23,980 on account of increased fallowing, though the area assessed rose by 8,552 acres. In the Henzada District there was, however, a substantial increase of Rs. 31,924 in the revenue demand, consequent on an increase of 21,923 acres in the area assessed, the latter increase being chiefly due to resurvey.

Except in the Amherst District, conditions in the Tenasserim Division were, on the whole, normal. Owing to extension of cultivation and to reduction of the area destroyed by floods, the revenue demand in the Toungoo District increased by Rs. 40,969 and the assessed area by 4,694 acres. In the Amherst District, however, no less than 9,832 acres were relinquished and 3,396 acres were resumed in default of payment of revenue, but the revenue demand nevertheless increased by Rs. 23,000, owing to the imposition of full assessment rates in certain portions of the district. Changes in the other districts of this division were unimportant.

In the Magwe Division conditions varied. In the Thayetmyo District the season was distinctly favourable and the area assessed rose by 20,900 acres with a corresponding increase of Rs. 27,953 in the revenue demand. Good rains in the Minbu District also led to an expansion of paddy and sessamun cultivation, and the assessed area increased by 31,018 acres and the revenue demand by Rs. 28,201. Deficient rainfall in the Pakōkku and Magwe Districts resulted, however, in decreases of Rs. 10,312 and Rs. 6,691, respectively, in the revenue demand in these two districts.

In the Mandalay Division the season was an indifferent one. Extensive floods destroyed a considerable proportion of the paddy in the Mandalay District, but this land was subsequently replanted with miscellaneous crops and the revenue demand fell by only Rs. 12,812. Influenza, floods and cattle disease caused slight decreases in the area assessed in the Bhamo and Katha Districts, while wild elephants did damage to all crops in the Ruby Mines District.

In the Shwebo District of the Sagaing Division there was a large decrease of 48,743 acres in the area assessed and a corresponding decrease of Rs. 28,751 in the revenue demand. Deficient and untimely rainfall, bad paddy prices in the previous year, and the failure of cultivators to repair their water-courses were the chief reasons for these decreases. In the Sagaing District, on the other hand, plentiful early rainfall and stricter assessment by surveyors resulted in an increase of 46,714 acres in the area assessed and of Rs. 48,041 in the revenue demand. Failure of the late rains caused a decrease of 28,494 acres in the area assessed in the Lower Chindwin District with a corresponding drop of Rs. 22,264 in the revenue demand, but a more favourable season in the Upper Chindwin District resulted in a slight increase in the settled area of that district.

In the Meiktila Division the season was a bad one, except in the irrigated portions of the Kyaukse District, but even in this district the demand fell by Rs. 24,075, owing to deficient rainfall in the unirrigated part of the district. In the Meiktila District the area assessed remained stationary, but the demand fell by Rs. 11,713. In the Yamethin District an enhancement of rates in the Pyinmana Subdivision of the district was entirely responsible for an increase of Rs. 13,041 in the total demand for the district and in the less favourably situated Yamethin Subdivision demand and area decreased by Rs. 54,935 and 32,428 acres, respectively. Nearly half of the Myingyan District was fallowed and 20 per cent. of the cultivated area failed to mature, but, owing to extensions of highly assessed tobacco cultivation, the demand decreased by only Rs. 5,600.

The unfavourable character of the season is reflected in the very large increase in remissions of land revenue. These rose from Rs. 3.05 lakhs to Rs. 13.15 lakhs, and in addition a sum of Rs. .85 lakh, due on account of the previous year's revenue, was remitted in the year of report. Floods accounted for Rs. 11.05 lakhs of the remissions of the current year, the districts showing the largest amounts being Ma-ubin with Rs. 4.22 lakhs and Insein with Rs. 4.16 lakhs. In no other district did the remissions exceed Rs. 1 lakh, but in each of the five

All the mission schools and many of the lay schools supported by the States are reported to have done good work. There was an increased attendance and also an improvement in the number of passes secured. The cause of education, however, sustained a severe loss by the death of Father Pirovano, whose work lay chiefly among the Brès, Padaungs and Karennis. The Teachers' Training Class at Yawnghwe has passed out its first batch of pupils and an additional Sub-Inspector was appointed during the year and posted to Kengtūng. There were 84 pupils in the school for the sons of Shan Chiefs and 61 passed their annual examinations in the various standards. The school was fortunate enough to escape influenza and the general health of the boys was good.

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AND
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GEOGRAPHY.

5. In spite of indifferent crops in many places and a good deal of disease, the general condition of the Karenni States was, on the whole, satisfactory, and their combined revenue amounted to Rs. 2,70,846, which is the highest figure ever recorded. A sum of Rs. 1,30,166 was contributed to the Indian War Loan of 1918. No meetings with Siamese officials took place during the year, but friendly relations were maintained and the border was quite peaceful.

The Karenni
States.

On the death of Hkun Maung Yo, the son and recognised heir of the late *Myosa* of Naungpale, a dispute arose as to the succession. The Shans favoured Hkun Hkam Leng, a brother of Hkun Maung Yo, but were bitterly opposed by the Karen inhabitants of the State, who put forward a woman of the name of Bya Du. The dividing line being racial and religious, and neither party being disposed to give way, it was eventually decided to place the Shan portion under the administration of the *Sawbwa* of Kantarawadi and the Karen portion under that of the *Myosa* of Bawlakè. This is a temporary arrangement which seems to have met with general acceptance. The question is to be reconsidered after a year's experience of the present arrangement.

The results obtained by the State Police were not altogether satisfactory, though the arrests of some elephant thieves at Pasaung and of two absconders from Papun with stolen property were distinctly creditable pieces of work. Reported crime increased from 130 to 156 cases, including one case of murder and one of dacoity with murder, both of which ended in conviction. Cattle thefts increased from 30 to 60 and in only six cases was a conviction obtained. Though the work of the Courts was good, only 73 cases came before them, the balance of 83 cases being undetected.

The number of Civil Suits filed during the year increased from 43 valued at Rs. 18,081 to 56 valued at Rs. 25,579. Only one was for over Rs. 5,000 and the great majority were for small money claims. No demands for extradition were made or received.

The absence of rain during October and heavy falls at harvest time greatly reduced the outturn of paddy, wheat was a poor crop, sessamum did badly except in Kantarawadi and the agricultural season was distinctly below the average. Rinderpest also carried off many cattle, and foot-and-mouth disease was somewhat widespread. The supply of marketable teak in the Karenni forest is nearing exhaustion, the forests of Bawlakè State were closed to workers other than the *Myosa* and his near relations, and it will shortly be necessary to close large areas in Kantarawadi. It is hoped, however, that the loss in teak may to some extent be set off by increased revenue from lac, cutch and other minor forest produce. Some 71,000 viss of lac and 37,000 viss of cutch were exported during the year. The teak plantations established two years ago continued to do well and further plantations are projected. In spite of labour difficulties and landslips, the Mawchi Mines, Limited, dealt with 27,243 tons of ore and obtained 738 tons of wolfram and tin concentrates as compared with 704 tons extracted from 26,358 tons of ore in 1917-18. No prospecting licenses were issued, nor were any fresh discoveries of minerals made.

The sum of Rs. 53,410 was spent on public works from revenue and Rs. 2,500 from tribute remitted. Good road work was done and for the first time it was possible to reach Loikaw from Taunggyi by motor car. The residence of the *Sawbwa* of Kantarawadi was at length completed.

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AND
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Though the total revenue reached Rs. 2'71 lakhs, the highest figure ever recorded, the receipts were swollen by exceptional items, such as Rs. 50,000 of arrears recovered from a timber lessee, and it must be recognised there are lean years in prospect for all these States, owing to the exhaustion of the forests. The finances are, however, now on a sound footing and the reserve funds of the two larger States total Rs. 2'40 lakhs.

The civil hospital at Loikaw treated 5,476 out-door and 157 in-door patients, the numbers being much the same as in the previous year. Mrs. Johnson of the American Baptist Mission distributed medicine to 1,678 sick Karens and also rendered valuable assistance during the influenza epidemic. There was a further decline in the number of vaccinations and only 1,873 operations were performed as against 4,685 in the previous year.

Fifty schools were dealt with by the Education Department as against 46 in 1917-18. There was a proportionate increase in the number of pupils from 940 to 1,031 and there are signs that Karens are beginning to take an increased interest in education.

The North-
ern Shan
States.

6. In the Northern Shan States the year was, on the whole, uneventful and the people were prosperous, though there were severe epidemics, first of cholera and then of influenza. The several States subscribed Rs. 2'51 lakhs to the Indian War Loan of 1918 and large contributions were made to various War Charities. Though sickness interfered considerably with recruiting for the Shan Company of the 4/70th Burma Rifles, some seventy recruits had been obtained, when the signature of the armistice put a stop to further enlistments.

The death of Sao Som, *Sawbwa* of Manglun, from influenza, was a serious loss to Government. He was a man of considerable force of character, thoroughly loyal to Government and was rapidly acquiring influence and prestige amongst the unadministered States. On his death bed he nominated his brother Sao Hknan as his successor and this was agreed to by the heads of tributary sub-states in Manglun and by Government, with the proviso that Sao Hknan shall be on probation for two years. A temporary arrangement has been come to in the Wa States between the Motle Chief and the Mothai *Myosa* pending final settlement of the dispute by Government. Very useful work was performed by a Kachin patrol, which was utilised to guard the frontier from Kapna to Pawwang during the opium collecting season, a period when this portion of the border is infested with bad characters. The usual cold weather military police post was maintained at Kokang and prevented all raids. On the Chinese side the *Taoyin* co-operated and a dangerous gang of dacoits was attacked and dispersed by Chinese soldiers. The usual frontier meeting was held at Nawnngma and thirty-nine out of fifty-eight pending cases were disposed of, China paying Rs. 3,943 and the Northern Shan States Rs. 1,680 by way of compensation. A meeting was held between Kachin Chiefs on the British and Chinese sides of the border and friendly relations were established.

Agricultural advances were made in several States and the survey of one irrigation scheme has been completed, while two further projects are under examination. A detailed scheme for the survey by professional agency of the tea gardens in Tawngpeng is in course of preparation. The funds will be provided by the *Sawbwas* and the survey will ensure the adequate assessment of these gardens, which at present do not pay their fair share of taxation.

The sanctioned strength of the Military Police Battalion remained at 734, but the actual strength was 932, owing to the return of volunteers from active service and continuance of recruiting till December. Proposals for the permanent increase of the sanctioned strength in conformity with the scheme for the formation of a separate frontier force are under consideration. The discipline of the men and their relations with the people of the country were satisfactory. The battalion unfortunately did not escape the prevailing influenza epidemic and admissions to hospital doubled.

The sanctioned strength of the Government Civil Police-force was increased by 16 to 128. Conduct and discipline were good and a training school at Lashio has been administratively sanctioned. The number of cases dealt with and the

number of convictions obtained declined slightly from 327 to 305 and from 109 to 104, respectively. Nine violent crimes were reported and convictions were obtained in three cases. Twenty-one cases were reported as cattle theft, but the majority were mere cases of straying and in only one case was a conviction obtained.

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The State Police of the various States did well and there was a distinct improvement in detection and in the percentage of stolen property recovered.

The Village Police, on the whole, continued to do good work. The number of cases dealt with by Criminal Courts of all classes fell from 1,574 to 1,435, the decrease being mainly due to the smaller number of Chinese immigrants looking for work with the Burma Mines Company at Namtu. On the whole, in spite of the higher cost of living, crime did not increase and was satisfactorily dealt with. The number of civil suits filed in Government courts rose from 116 to 149, while those in State courts declined from 362 to 283. Out of a total of 432 suits filed, in 402 cases the value of the relief claimed was under Rs. 500. One claim for extradition was made by the Chinese authorities and the men wanted have been arrested and await identification.

The agricultural season was, generally speaking, a good one, and the rainfall was sufficient and well distributed. A bumper crop of paddy was obtained in several States, but the price of rice rose to abnormal heights in North and South Hsenwi, partly owing to increased demand from Chinese villagers and partly owing to the superior attractions of opium causing a decline in the area under paddy. Cotton was a normal crop everywhere, but sessamum was a failure and led to a substitution of groundnut for sessamum oil among the poorer class. Oranges were a moderate crop, but tea did well and fetched higher prices than in the previous year. Tobacco and potatoes were indifferent, but wheat cultivation made a good start. There was an enormous increase in the cultivation of opium and the number of households engaged in poppy growing increased from 18,626 to 20,760. The outturn, however, was extremely poor, owing to drought and a pest of caterpillars, and did not exceed last year's production. The price also fell heavily from an average of Rs. 50 to Rs. 100 per viss, and it is hoped this disastrous experience may lead to a restriction of the area under this crop in the future.

The influenza epidemic caused a serious shortage in the supply of labour as well as a sharp rise in rates. The Burma Mines Company only succeeded in obtaining 2,000 men as against between 5,000 to 10,000 in normal conditions, and the programme of the Public Works Department had to be drastically cut down.

The total forest revenue of the year increased from Rs. 70,799 to Rs. 1,26,280 and expenditure also rose from Rs. 35,213 to Rs. 44,463. Some 746 tons of unconverted and 13,550 tons of converted timber were supplied to the Munitions Board and the Burma Mines continued to extract fuel from the Panghai Reserve under purchase contracts. Experiments with a view to the extraction of resin from certain pine areas in Mong Tung and Tawngpeng were initiated.

Though considerably inconvenienced by the shortage of labour, owing to the influenza epidemic, the Burma Mines Company carried out a great deal of development work, the erection of a new mill was nearly completed and numerous other improvements to the plant, railway track and accommodation were carried out. The output was very slightly below that of last year and amounted to 17,997 tons of refined lead and just under two million ounces of silver. Progress has been made with the construction of a Hydro-Electric Power Station and the preliminary survey for the extension of the Burma Railways Company's metre-gauge from Tapalai to Namtu has been completed. The Man-mak-lang mine furnished 23,613 tons of iron ore and work on the Namma coal field concession has started in earnest.

Of the total expenditure of Rs. 3.85 lakhs on public works, Rs. 2.74 lakhs were paid to the Public Works Department and Rs. 1.11 lakhs were expended by State or other agency. Much useful work on roads and mule tracks was done in all States, more especially in Tawngpeng and North Hsenwi. Much, however, remains to be done, more particularly in Hsipa, where increased expenditure on the upkeep of existing roads will be necessary in the near future.

In spite of the ravages of cholera, influenza and, to a lesser degree, of small-pox, the people were, on the whole, prosperous. A feature of the year has been the sharp rise in the price of all local products, except opium, and everybody with produce to sell has made large profits.

Outbreaks of cattle disease were milder than in previous years and there were no indications of any decline in the general standard of living, though the increase in the price of imported articles has stimulated local industries, such as weaving, pottery and boot and shoe making. The mulberry garden at Lashio has been much improved and a start has been made with sericulture. Mule breeding continues to make quiet progress in North Hsenwi. Interesting experiments have been made on worn-out *taungya* land with promising results.

In Hsipaw, the actual receipts of revenue declined from Rs. 6'28 lakhs to Rs. 6'07 lakhs, but the decrease is nominal, as last year's receipts included large arrears of tea revenue. By strict economy the expenditure was reduced from Rs. 5'77 lakhs to Rs. 5'63 lakhs. The finances of the State are in a satisfactory condition, but there will be heavy calls on them in the near future. The allowance of the *Sawbwa* was increased to Rs. 6,000 per mensem. In Tawngpeng, receipts increased from Rs. 3'77 lakhs to Rs. 4'13 lakhs and the balance at the credit of the Public Works Fund now amounts to Rs. 5'33 lakhs. In North Hsenwi, receipts were Rs. 3'71 lakhs as compared with Rs. 3'98 lakhs in 1917-18, but the decrease is not real, as last year's receipts were swollen by arrears of opium revenue. Remissions were granted in certain areas, owing to floods and cholera. Expenditure increased from Rs. 3'09 lakhs to Rs. 3'57 lakhs, owing to an investment of Rs. 70,000 in War Bonds. There was a large outstanding of nearly a lakh on account of opium revenue, but it is expected the greater part of this will be recovered. In South Hsenwi, receipts increased from Rs. 1'74 lakhs to Rs. 2'03 lakhs while expenditure remained the same at Rs. 1'66 lakhs.

The year was the most unhealthy known for a generation and there was a substantial increase of patients at nearly all hospitals and dispensaries. By far the most fatal disease was influenza, and then cholera, plague and small-pox in order of severity. Considerable attention was paid to the sanitation of Namtu, which is now satisfactory, and a sanitary and conservancy scheme will shortly be brought into force at Hsipaw and Kyaukme at an estimated cost of Rs. 40,000. The total number of vaccinations performed was 10,105, of which 7,550 were successful. More vaccinators are being trained and it will then be possible to protect areas in which vaccination has hitherto been practised only spasmodically. Some 5,000 grains of quinine were distributed, but the demand greatly exceeded the supply.

Two Anglo-Vernacular Schools are in process of construction at Namtu and Lashio, but that at Hsipaw had to be closed, as the American Baptist Mission was unable to secure a suitable resident superintendent. Vernacular schools numbered 52, the same as last year, but owing to sickness and high cost of living, the number of pupils declined slightly from 2,179 to 2,091.

The problem of the future administration of the Northern and Southern Shan States has continued to engage attention, and an officer has been deputed to proceed to the Federated Malay States to study their administration and to ascertain how far the system there followed might be made applicable to the conditions of the Shan States.

7. In Mōngmit State the year was uneventful and good work was done by the Chief, who takes a keen personal interest in the administration of the State. The revenue increased by Rs. 57,000 to Rs. 2'41 lakhs, partly owing to a good paddy crop and partly owing to the inclusion of arrears from last year. The expenditure increased slightly to Rs. 2'27 lakhs and there was a substantial closing balance of Rs. 87,000, exclusive of Rs. 40,000 invested in War Bonds. The rainfall was adequate and all crops were satisfactory, except tobacco, which was damaged by floods. Influenza was prevalent here as elsewhere and the hospital attracted 500 patients more than last year. Cattle disease was moderate.

The opening of a new police-station at Kota and of an outpost at Kunchaung led to a considerable increase in police expenditure. The total number of cases

reported was 131, which is slightly below the average. The great majority of these were extremely petty and there was only one violent crime, which ended in conviction. The number of true cases tried rose from 66 to 100 and the percentage of convictions fell from 69 to 66, but the work of all courts was good. There was a slight decrease from 113 to 102 in the number of civil suits dealt with and a remarkable decrease in their value from Rs. 22,701 to Rs. 9,621. Expenditure on public works increased largely from Rs. 22,848 to Rs. 40,482. The *Sawbwa* has shown much energy in improving the communications of his State and several useful bridges were built.

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In the Kodaung Hill Tracts, there was much mortality from influenza, and the crops were indifferent and some difficulty was experienced in the collection of revenue. With the help of Dr. Harper of the American Baptist Mission at Namkham an irritating boundary dispute was settled and the same gentleman also contributed materially to the settlement of a serious case of desecration by Christian Kachins. Crime was stationary, except for one undetected case of murder, which is the only case of violent crime for five years. Forest offences increased, but it is possible a solution may be found in the establishment of forest villages. A sum of Rs. 3,134 was spent in rewards for the maintenance of roads as compared with Rs. 1,420 last year. The maximum number of registrable guns was raised from 240 to 542, which is more in accordance with the number actually held. Forty new guns were licensed and two unlicensed guns were seized. There are no schools in the Kodaung area, but two Kachin teachers have been secured and it is hoped to open two schools shortly.

The termination of the Kuki operations and the settlement of the Somra Tract and the removal of the Kukis from the Thaungdut State will relieve the *Sawbwa* of that State of a fruitful source of trouble. The frontier of Singaling Kanti has been undisturbed by raids, though collisions have occurred between the Nokan and Ponnyo Nagas. The year in both these small States was in other respects quite uneventful.

(ii) *The Chin Hills.*

[The Chin Hills proper, area approximately 8,000 square miles, population 119,556, the Palaw Hill Tracts, area approximately 2,200 square miles, population 17,128; Hill District of Arakan, area 1,500 square miles, population 22,234; and tracts in the Upper Chindwin, Akyab and Kyaukpadaung Districts.]

8. The affairs of the Chin tribes on the Assam-Burma border are at present administered by no less than four officers, namely the Superintendent of the Chin Hills and the Commissioners of the Sagaing, Magwe and Arakan Divisions. To remedy this absence of co-ordination, enquiries are proceeding to ascertain to what extent greater unity of administration can be effected by the creation of a frontier Division to include all the districts on the Northern and North-Eastern frontiers of Burma. A step towards unity of administration has been taken by placing the Chin Hills within the jurisdiction of the Commissioner, Sagaing Division.

The outstanding feature of the year has been the successful conclusion of the operations conducted against the rebel Kuki tribes in the Somra Tract to the north-west of the Upper Chindwin District and in the Manipur State. The three military police columns operating in the Somra Tract left their base in November 1918 and opposition was encountered about the middle of January 1919, when the advanced post of the central column was suddenly attacked at Lamlai, but peace was restored by the 1st March 1919. The course of the operations is more fully described in paragraph 43 below. Action has been taken against the Chiefs responsible for the rebellion, and orders have been passed for the deportation of nine Chiefs for periods ranging from a few months to ten years. In order to ensure against a recrudescence of the unrest, three military police posts have been established in the area, supported from a strong base at Maungkan on the Chindwin River, and the area is being opened up by means of the construction of mule-tracks between the posts. To secure the concentration of the Kukis and to bring them under effective administration, that portion of the Thaungdut State, lying to the north of the Nampanga stream, to which the Kukis have penetrated, is being incorporated within the Somra Tract, and no settlements of this tribe

will be permitted within the amended borders of the State south of that river. The Mawlvailup group of Kipyin villages has been transferred from their habitations in the vicinity of the Naga country in the extreme north, to the centre of the tract. This course will have the effect of interposing a belt of uninhabited country between the Kukis and the Nagas of the unadministered territory to the north of the tract and will thereby reduce the opportunities of friction between the two races. Similar arrangements have been made for the protection of the Tongkhul Nagas in the centre of the tract. The old Chief, Shempu, father of the notorious Pachei, died during the year, and was succeeded by his son Kamjadom. Another important change in tribal administration was the migration of Vunmul, Chief of the Kipyin clan, from Manipur, in order to live among his clansmen of the Mawlvailup group in the Somra Tract.

The continuance of the operations against the Kukis in Manipur and the Somra Tract necessitated adherence to a passive policy within the Chin Hills proper, and no active measures were taken against the Lawhtu tribes, who continued to maintain a defiant attitude in the south of the administered area. A strong force, however, patrolled the south-western frontier for the whole of the open season, with the result that internal peace was preserved except in the Lawhtu area, and no raids of any kind took place either in the Chin Hills or in the plains of Burma. Measures necessary to restore tranquillity in the Lawhtu area in the coming open season are under consideration. A body of Chin friendlies, recruited from the Kamhow tribe by Lieutenant H. Rundle, did excellent work against the Kuki rebels and accounted for one Chief and forced another to surrender. As regards internal administration, the tribute due from the Falam and Tiddim Subdivisions was remitted in full in recognition of their loyalty, while action under section 121 of the Indian Penal Code has been taken against the principal Chiefs responsible for last year's disorders in the Haka Subdivision, where conditions of settled government have not as yet been fully restored. Conditions approximating to famine prevailed throughout the hills during the year and the high price of rice in the plains aggravated matters. Experiments with wheat proved a comparative failure, but another attempt will be made with fresh seed. The composition and strength of the Chin Hills military police battalion remained unchanged, but extra men from other battalions were retained as a precautionary measure. Owing to the unsettled state of the country, no progress could be made with road extensions, but sundry additions and improvements were made to Government buildings and an inspection bungalow, burnt by the rebels in the previous year, was rebuilt. The influenza epidemic was particularly virulent, every single man in the Military Police Battalion suffered and the general administration was entirely disorganised for about a month. It is estimated that the number of deaths from this cause exceeds 5,000. Dysentery and small-pox also made their appearance and a very malignant form of malaria is apparently increasing. The only hospitals are in the military police lines, but proposals for the construction of two civil hospitals at Haka and Tiddim are under consideration. Attendance and passes at the schools at Falam and Tiddim both declined and for this the influenza epidemic is mainly responsible. The establishment of a school for Chiefs at Haka is being considered.

Within the Pakōkku Hill Tracts the year has been uneventful, except for the surrenders of Buhrum and Aung Tin, who were largely responsible for the last year's disturbances. The Company of Chins recruited from this area distinguished themselves by their good work in the Kuki operations. With the restoration of order, progress has been made with inter-village communications, a new school for boys was opened at Kanpetlet and a commencement made with the growing of mulberries for sericulture. Crime was very light. Though the rainfall was much below the average and the crops were indifferent, the revenue was easily collected.

The Hill District of Arakan was disturbed by three raids by transfrontier Chins on administered villages. The most serious was an attack by Twiship villagers on Laungtan village, resulting in the death of one girl and the capture of two children. Measures to guard against a recurrence of such raids are under consideration. The introduction of the new revenue system, which involves also

an increase of taxation, was again postponed, owing to the unsettled conditions produced by the war. Agriculturally the year was unsatisfactory. Influenza in October and November interfered with tobacco cultivation, which was further damaged by hailstorms, and prices for agricultural produce generally also ruled low. The result was a considerable scarcity of food grain, which was met by an increased allotment of agricultural advances. A grant of Rs. 15,000 spread over five years was made from Provincial funds for the improvement and maintenance of existing roads, and work has been started.

(iii) *The Kachin Hills.*

[*The Putao District and tracts in the Myitkyina, Bhamo and Katha Districts.*]

9. During the year of report the internal peace of the Kachin Hills has been preserved and the frontier has again been undisturbed. Intercourse with China and the transfrontier tribes continued to be satisfactory and feeling in favour of the extension of the British administration appears to be gaining ground among the transborder Chiefs. The usual frontier meetings were held at Sima and Naungma and a considerable number of pending cases was settled.

Violent crimes increased from 8 to 16, but, considering the custom of blood feuds and the instincts and habits of the tribes, the volume of crime is surprisingly small. In Putao and Katha the number of criminal cases declined from 71 to 54 and from 13 to 10, respectively, while in Myitkyina and Bhamo they increased from 114 to 126 and from 38 to 65, respectively. The increase in Bhamo is due to an increased number of prosecutions under the Forest and Opium Acts. Vigorous action continued to be taken to enforce the collective responsibility of villagers and the fulfilment of duties by headmen, and some undesirable characters were deported, but there was considerably less ground for such action this year than in 1917-18. The number of civil cases instituted was much the same as in the previous year and they call for no remark.

Tribute was levied at the same rates as last year and was collected without difficulty. The total amount paid, including *thathameda* in the Pamkham and Lweje Shan Tracts in the Bhamo District, was Rs. 60,153, or a small decrease of Rs. 495, for which the ravages of influenza were entirely responsible.

No opium or liquor shops were licensed in the Kachin Hills. There was, however, a considerable extension of poppy cultivation in the Bhamo District, owing to high prices and keen Chinese demand. The crop was a poor one and an abrupt fall in price led to heavy losses. Action was taken, where possible, to destroy the plantations of Chinese immigrants. Several interesting agricultural experiments were made and potatoes proved very successful, no less than 39,000 pounds being distributed among 26 villages.

The output of jade and amber fell considerably and only 51,068 viss of jade valued at Rs. 2.68 lakhs were exported as compared with 100,258 viss valued at Rs. 4.04 lakhs last year. The figures for amber are 310 viss valued at Rs. 7,060 as compared with 1,785 viss valued at Rs. 7,960. The jade mines in the Katha District were not worked during the year.

Progress was made with the appointment of headmen, the settlement of boundaries and the registration of arms.

Condition of the People.

10. The agricultural season compared unfavourably with that of the previous year, the rainfall was erratic and ill distributed, heavy downpours alternated with long breaks, and the area over which crops failed to mature was larger by nearly half a million acres than the corresponding area in the year 1917-18. The year was also an exceptionally unhealthy one, owing to the prevalence of influenza, which spread all over the Province, and was responsible for the very high death rate of 39.59 per 1,000 of the estimated population as compared with 25.28, the mean of the previous five years. In addition, cultivators suffered severely from a serious recrudescence of rinderpest, which was particularly virulent in

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Lower Burma, and the deaths amongst the live-stock of the Province from this cause are estimated to have amounted to close on 26,000, which is the heaviest mortality experienced since the year 1905-06. The price of imported articles continued to advance, and imported cotton piece-goods, which may almost be said to be necessities, have quadrupled in price since the beginning of the present century. On the other hand, although the cultivator has to pay more for his clothes and has had to forego luxuries, he received much higher prices for his produce. In Lower Burma, the cultivator received probably not less than an average of Rs. 115 per 100 baskets for his paddy as against Rs. 85 in the previous year, while in Upper Burma, with its greater variety of crops, the rise has been even greater proportionately, and in the case of maize, gram and sessamum, the increase in price amounted to between 50 and nearly 100 per cent. An appreciable decrease in crime also points to absence of any really serious distress, while a fall in civil litigation seems to indicate that there has been a contraction of credit. On the whole, therefore, it may be said that, while there has been some decline in the standard of living as compared with the years before the war, it does not appear probable that the economic position of the great mass of the people has been seriously affected, and their general condition may be described as not unsatisfactory, in spite of the heavy influenza death-roll and the serious losses caused by cattle disease.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

REFERENCES—

Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Burma during the year ended the 30th June 1929.
Land Records Administration Report of Burma for the year ended the 30th June 1929.
Agricultural Statistics of India, Volume I.

Realization of the Revenue.

II. Detailed instructions were issued for the survey of grants of land for rubber cultivation and for the levy of a scale of fees for such survey. The extraction of stone or schist required for the construction of private roads was exempted from payment of royalty. Persons who had paid income-tax for the financial year were exempted from payment of capitation-tax for that year or from land tax in lieu of capitation-tax in respect of land occupied by them. The procedure to be followed in applying for certificates of approval to prospect for minerals was revised. The Local Government delegated certain of its powers in respect of the grant of certificates of approval to the Financial Commissioner, including the power to sanction the assignment or transfer of such licenses in cases in which they were issued with his sanction. The Burma Oil-fields Act came into force from the 1st January 1919 and the areas constituting the Minbu, Singu, Minhla and Yenangyaung Oil-fields were defined.

Changes in
Law, Rules
and Direc-
tions.

12. The total current demand from all heads of land revenue rose from Rs. 4,89,20 lakhs to Rs. 4,91,37 lakhs. Ordinary land revenue rose by Rs. 1,54 lakhs, fishery revenue by Rs. 2,26 lakhs and royalties on minerals, other than petroleum, jade and amber, by Rs. 74 lakh, while royalties on petroleum, jade and amber declined by Rs. 2,13 lakhs. Variations under other heads were unimportant. Owing, however, to much larger remissions of land revenue on account of the unfavourable agricultural season, the total collections fell from Rs. 4,74 lakhs to Rs. 4,71 lakhs.

Demand,
collections,
remissions
and out-
standings.

Exclusive of the amounts to be credited to cess and irrigation, the demand of land revenue proper for the year rose from Rs. 3,12,78 lakhs to Rs. 3,14,39 lakhs. This increase was somewhat below the normal, but variations in particular districts call for no comment.

In the Arakan Division the season was not unfavourable and in the Akyab District there was an extension of 2,282 acres in the area under miscellaneous crops, though the revenue demand in the same district decreased by Rs. 21,118, owing to increased fallow assessment. Remissions on account of floods in the Myebôn Township of the Kyaukpyu District were responsible for a slight decrease in the revenue demand.

In the Insein and Pegu Districts of the Pegu Division there were increases of Rs. 75,000 and Rs. 72,000, respectively, in the revenue demand, owing to the substitution of full for intermediate rates of assessment. There were small increases also in the Tharrawaddy and Prome Districts, owing to extension of cultivation, but generally speaking the area assessed in this division showed little change from that of the previous year.

In the Irrawaddy Division, on the other hand, the season was distinctly less favourable, and in four of the five districts in this division there was a decrease in the revenue demand, owing to increased fallowing. In the Bassein District resurvey of certain areas and extension of cultivation resulted in an increase of 8,374 acres in the area assessed, but the revenue demand nevertheless decreased by Rs. 14,127, on account of more extended fallowing. For the same reason the demand in the Pyapôn District fell by Rs. 23,858, in spite of an increase of

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2,218 acres in the area assessed. In the Ma-ubin District the unfavourable agricultural conditions were aggravated by wide breaches in the Yandoon Island embankment and in private bunds in the Pantanaw and Danabyu Townships, and the revenue demand fell by Rs. 24,647. In the Myaungmya District also the demand fell by Rs. 23,980 on account of increased fallowing, though the area assessed rose by 8,552 acres. In the Henzada District there was, however, a substantial increase of Rs. 31,924 in the revenue demand, consequent on an increase of 21,923 acres in the area assessed, the latter increase being chiefly due to resurvey.

Except in the Amherst District, conditions in the Tenasserim Division were, on the whole, normal. Owing to extension of cultivation and to reduction of the area destroyed by floods, the revenue demand in the Toungoo District increased by Rs. 40,969 and the assessed area by 4,694 acres. In the Amherst District, however, no less than 9,832 acres were relinquished and 3,396 acres were resumed in default of payment of revenue, but the revenue demand nevertheless increased by Rs. 23,000, owing to the imposition of full assessment rates in certain portions of the district. Changes in the other districts of this division were unimportant.

In the Magwe Division conditions varied. In the Thayetmyo District the season was distinctly favourable and the area assessed rose by 20,900 acres with a corresponding increase of Rs. 27,953 in the revenue demand. Good rains in the Minbu District also led to an expansion of paddy and sessamun cultivation, and the assessed area increased by 31,018 acres and the revenue demand by Rs. 28,201. Deficient rainfall in the Pakōkku and Magwe Districts resulted, however, in decreases of Rs. 10,312 and Rs. 6,691, respectively, in the revenue demand in these two districts.

In the Mandalay Division the season was an indifferent one. Extensive floods destroyed a considerable proportion of the paddy in the Mandalay District, but this land was subsequently replanted with miscellaneous crops and the revenue demand fell by only Rs. 12,812. Influenza, floods and cattle disease caused slight decreases in the area assessed in the Bhamo and Katha Districts, while wild elephants did damage to all crops in the Ruby Mines District.

In the Shwebo District of the Sagaing Division there was a large decrease of 48,743 acres in the area assessed and a corresponding decrease of Rs. 28,751 in the revenue demand. Deficient and untimely rainfall, bad paddy prices in the previous year, and the failure of cultivators to repair their water-courses were the chief reasons for these decreases. In the Sagaing District, on the other hand, plentiful early rainfall and stricter assessment by surveyors resulted in an increase of 46,714 acres in the area assessed and of Rs. 48,041 in the revenue demand. Failure of the late rains caused a decrease of 28,494 acres in the area assessed in the Lower Chindwin District with a corresponding drop of Rs. 22,264 in the revenue demand, but a more favourable season in the Upper Chindwin District resulted in a slight increase in the settled area of that district.

In the Meiktila Division the season was a bad one, except in the irrigated portions of the Kyaukse District, but even in this district the demand fell by Rs. 24,075, owing to deficient rainfall in the unirrigated part of the district. In the Meiktila District the area assessed remained stationary, but the demand fell by Rs. 11,713. In the Yamethin District an enhancement of rates in the Pyinmana Subdivision of the district was entirely responsible for an increase of Rs. 13,041 in the total demand for the district and in the less favourably situated Yamethin Subdivision demand and area decreased by Rs. 54,935 and 32,428 acres, respectively. Nearly half of the Myingyan District was fallowed and 20 per cent. of the cultivated area failed to mature, but, owing to extensions of highly assessed tobacco cultivation, the demand decreased by only Rs. 5,600.

The unfavourable character of the season is reflected in the very large increase in remissions of land revenue. These rose from Rs. 3.05 lakhs to Rs. 13.15 lakhs, and in addition a sum of Rs. 85 lakh, due on account of the previous year's revenue, was remitted in the year of report. Floods accounted for Rs. 11.05 lakhs of the remissions of the current year, the districts showing the largest amounts being Ma-ubin with Rs. 4.22 lakhs and Insein with Rs. 4.16 lakhs. In no other district did the remissions exceed Rs. 1 lakh, but in each of the five

Districts of Thaton, Hanthawaddy, Tharrawaddy, Bassein and Amherst the amount remitted exceeded Rs. 20,000 and was considerably above the average.

The amount remitted as irrecoverable was Rs. 73,822 and a sum of Rs. 24,393 was struck off on account of erroneous assessment. A large part of the amount irrecoverable was due to an error in procedure in the Pegu District, an error since put right. The only two districts showing any substantial amount of erroneous assessment were Amherst and Mergui, where two rubber estates, which had been relinquished, were wrongly assessed.

The total demand, including arrears of the previous year, amounted to Rs. 3,23.82 lakhs, of which only Rs. 1.64 lakhs remained outstanding at the end of the year of report. Of the previous year's outstanding of Rs. 9.50 lakhs, Rs. 8.57 lakhs was collected, and of the current net demand of Rs. 3,01.16 lakhs (that is to say gross demand Rs. 3,14.31 lakhs less remissions Rs. 13.15 lakhs), Rs. 2,99.60 lakhs was collected. Collection was easy, except in the Akyab, Kyaukpyu and Toungoo Districts, and on the 30th June 1919 no less than 22 districts had practically no outstandings other than supplementary assessments made shortly before the close of the year. In the Akyab and Kyaukpyu Districts paddy prices ruled low, and the expectation of a general remission, similar to that granted in those districts in the previous year, retarded collections. In the Toungoo District difficulty was experienced owing to tightness of money and also owing to shortage of railway rolling-stock for the purpose of moving the crop. The Mandalay District had the largest outstanding of any district in the Province, namely Rs. 49,859, but this is explained by there having been four changes of Deputy Commissioner in ten weeks.

The total area returned as fallow in Lower Burma, was 792,794 acres, or 103,906 acres in excess of that of the previous year. Of this total, 327,776 acres were assessed at the full rate, 453,602 acres at the two-anna rate and 11,416 acres at intermediate rates. The unfavourable character of the season and floods account for the increase in fallowing, which was shared by all districts in Lower Burma, except Hanthawaddy, Prome and Tavoy.

13. The amount of revenue, for the realization of which application was made, was Rs. 12.97 lakhs and the amount realized was Rs. 10.56 lakhs, or 81 per cent. The amount for which application was made was less than last year by Rs. 50,510 and the amount recovered was less by only Rs. 2,387. The number of notices issued increased from 49,884 to 56,412, but the number of warrants of arrest declined from 7,361 to 7,209 and the number of persons committed to jail from 22 to 3. Warrants of attachment and sales of immoveable property increased considerably from 12,491 to 22,367, and from 1,351 to 5,651, respectively. Warrants of attachment and sales of moveable property, on the other hand, fell slightly from 3,269 to 2,948, and from 292 to 161, respectively.

Except in the Akyab and Kyaukpyu Districts, where conditions were altogether abnormal, the revenue of the year of report was collected easily and without undue resort to coercive processes, though fishery revenue and *thathameda* and capitation-tax gave, as usual, more trouble than land revenue proper. In the Arakan Division, however, there was considerable difficulty in collecting the revenue, owing to the fall in the price of paddy and scarcity of shipping, and it was eventually found necessary to remit the capitation for the year in the Akyab District. Some indication of the difficulty of collection in this Division is afforded by the fact that the Akyab District was responsible for more than four-fifths of the total number of sales of immoveable property in the Province, while the Kyaukpyu District contributed more than one-fifth of the total number of warrants of arrests issued. Elsewhere, there were a few instances of the issue of large numbers of processes, owing to the misplaced zeal of certain Township Officers, but generally speaking, in the rest of the Province, there was a substantial decline in the number of coercive processes. There were marked decreases in the Tharrawaddy and Bassein Districts, where headmen worked well; while there was an increase in the Amherst District, where capitation-tax caused difficulty. In the Ma-ubin District, which showed the largest amount of arrears for recovery, most of the processes were issued on account of fishery revenue, which

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was, however, recovered in full. In Upper Burma there was, as usual, little need for coercive measures. The Mandalay and Meiktila Districts showed the largest numbers of processes issued, but in both cases the figures were smaller than those of the preceding year.

Surveys.

Surveys by
Imperial
Agency.

14. Topographical survey operations were continued during the year of report by Nos. 10, 11 and Special Burma Forest Survey Parties of the Survey of India in the Myitkyina and Putao Districts of Upper Burma and in the Tavoy and Mergui Districts of Lower Burma. The Special Burma Forest Survey Party was formed and started forest surveys in the Meiktila District of Upper Burma. An area of 4,166 square miles, including 74 square miles of reserved forest, was surveyed on the half-inch, one-inch and two-inch scales. Triangulation and traversing were also carried out in the Katha and Meiktila Districts of Upper Burma and in the Mergui District of Lower Burma with a view to detailed survey being extended to those districts next season.

In addition to the above the survey of an area of 896 square miles was revised on the quarter-inch scale in the Upper Chindwin District and the unadministered area adjoining it and in the Chin Hills of Upper Burma.

During the year of report tidal operations were continued by No. 16 (Survey) Party at Rangoon and Moulmein, where the tidal observatories were inspected and the tide-gauges were cleaned, adjusted and left in good working order.

The Magnetic Observatory at Taungoo was visited and magnetic observations for the comparison of instruments were taken.

Surveys by
Provincial
Agency—
extension
and revision
surveys.

15. The Special Survey Party completed the recess work of the areas surveyed in the previous year, and during the field season carried out revision surveys of tracts in the Bassein, Henzada and Amherst Districts, with an occupied area aggregating 160,934 acres. The cost of these revision surveys worked out to Rs. 151-2-0 per square mile and Re. 0-4-11 per acre occupied. The same party also undertook extension surveys, following new traverses in the Myaungmya and Pyapôn Districts comprising 48,671 acres of occupied area. The cost per square mile was Rs. 250-12-0 in Myaungmya and Rs. 176-8-0 in Pyapôn, and Re. 0-14-3 and Re. 0-5-2, respectively, per occupied acre. A portion of the staff was also engaged in a topographical four-inch survey of Pyindaye and Kakayan forest areas in the Pyapôn and Myaungmya Districts, where some 88'80 square miles were traversed at a cost of Rs. 225-3-0 per square mile. This work was conducted under great difficulties, owing to the prevalence of cholera, scarcity of good water and desertion of the Arakanese jungle-clearers. Casualties were heavy, one Assistant Superintendent, 6 Amins and 25 Chainmen died of cholera in the field, and 75 per cent. of the staff are still suffering from the effects of their trying experience. The local staff in the various districts revised the survey of 477,558 acres of occupied area, as compared with 465,024 acres in 1917-18. Excellent work was done and a high standard of accuracy was exacted. In the Insein, Thatôn and Mergui Districts 92 rubber estates with an aggregate area of 4,029 acres were surveyed by the local staff, and holding surveys of impermanent island cultivation and of previously unsurveyed tracts made satisfactory progress.

Town and
fishery
surveys and
surveys of
leased areas.

16. No new town survey was undertaken during the year, but the recess work in connection with last year's survey of the civil station at Tavoy was completed. The survey of leased and granted areas by special establishments working on the piece-work system was continued in five districts. In Kyaukpypu 72 applications for an area of 337 acres were dealt with by a staff of five surveyors. In Thatôn eight applications for the cultivation of rubber aggregating 1,800 acres, two applications for mining leases aggregating 1,174 acres and 70 applications for paddy cultivation aggregating 1,410 acres were dealt with by three surveyors aided by the local staff. The areas for rubber were traversed by the theodolite where they exceeded 100 acres and by plane-table where they did not, and in all cases connection with permanent survey marks was made. In

Amherst 164 applications for 8,249 acres were made, the majority of which lay in areas of the Chaungzon township hitherto reserved against unauthorised squatting and land speculation. Applications for 2,050 acres were either rejected or withdrawn, leaving an area of 6,192 acres to be dealt with, including 2,000 acres applied for by the Hon'ble Mr. Lim Chin Tsong for the cultivation of cocoanuts on Kalagauk Island. Twenty-four applications covering 1,372 acres were dealt with. In Tavoy 38 applications comprising 2,962 acres were received during the year, of which 36 applications covering 1,557 acres were disposed of. The traverse of 1,400 acres for the Tavoy Rubber Company was in progress at the end of the year. In Mergui, out of 142 cases for survey pending at the commencement of the year, 139 were disposed of. The total number of cases to be dealt with was 185 covering 8,641 acres, of which the Inspector checked 180 cases. The special temporary staff of one Inspector and six surveyors was disbanded on completion of the work. The cost of these surveys of leased areas was in all cases met from fees deposited by the applicants.

CHAP. II.—
ADMINIS-
TRATION OF
THE LAND.

Settlements.

17. During the year ending the 30th June 1919 Settlement Parties were at work in the six districts of Sagaing, Magwe, Myaungmya, Shwebo, Minbu and Kyaukse, in which their operations covered a gross area of 11,992 square miles and an occupied area of 3,866,000 acres.

Program of
Settlements.

The second settlement of the Sagaing District was started in November 1915 and was completed in December 1918, when the party moved on to the Shwebo District. All the field work in the district having been completed in the previous year, the work of the party in the year of report was confined to the compilation of statistics, the drafting of the report and the soil classification of some 6,000 acres of occupied area included within the limits of Sagaing Town. The Settlement Officer's report was submitted and is at present under the consideration of the various reviewing authorities. The total area dealt with in this district comprised a gross area of 1,817 square miles with an occupied area of 772,000 acres.

The second settlement of the Magwe District was commenced in November 1915 and the period originally allotted for the completion of the work was three years, but, owing to the extent of the area to be dealt with and the complexity of the work, it was found necessary to extend the period by seven and a half months. The field work covering an area of 2,710 square miles and an occupied area of 967,000 acres had practically been completed before the beginning of the year of report, and the party was chiefly occupied with the compilation of statistics and the drafting of the report. Operations were finally concluded in June 1919, when the party moved on to the Kyaukse District. The Conference to consider the Settlement Officer's report will shortly be held and the new rates will probably come into force on the 1st July 1920.

The revision settlement of a portion of the Myaungmya District, comprising a gross area of 1,742 square miles with an occupied area of 653,000 acres, was begun in November 1916. A period of two years was originally sanctioned for the completion of the operations, but, owing to the difficult nature of the country, it was found necessary to extend this period by one year. All field work was completed and the compilation of statistics and the drafting of the report are in hand.

The reclassification of the area irrigated by the Mön Canale in the Minbu District was commenced in November 1918 by a small temporary party working under the Deputy Commissioner of the district. A period of eighteen months was originally sanctioned for the completion of operations on the assumption that a whole-time Settlement Officer would be available. As no such officer was available and as the Deputy Commissioner, under whom the operations started, has proceeded on leave and has been succeeded by an officer with no settlement experience, a short extension will probably be necessary. The area to be dealt with covers a gross area of 213 square miles and an occupied area of 112,000 acres. The area dealt with during the year was 108 square miles with an occupied area of 59,000 acres.

CHAP. II.—
ADMINISTRATION OF
THE LAND.

The re-settlement of the Shwebo District with a gross area of 4,943 square miles and an occupied area of 1,100,000 acres was begun in November 1918. During the year soil classification and connected operations were carried on over a gross area of 1,607 square miles with an occupied area of 266,000 acres. Owing to illness and shortage of officers and other causes, the first year's programme of work could not be completed, and it is probable that an extension of one year to the originally sanctioned period of four years will be found necessary for the satisfactory completion of operations in this district.

The resettlement of the Kyaukse District was started in the middle of June 1919 and no field work of any importance was undertaken during the year of report. The area for settlement in this district consists of a gross area of 567 square miles with an occupied area of 262,000 acres.

Financial
results and
expenditure.

18. New settlement rates in the Akyab District were sanctioned during the year of report. The third settlement of this district covering a gross area of 1,950 square miles and an occupied area of 736,000 acres was completed in 1916, but, owing to the specially unfavourable conditions prevailing in this particular district, as the result of the war, it was decided not to introduce the new settlement, although the old settlement expired over half the district in June 1918. As conditions rapidly improved after the conclusion of the war, the new rates were introduced for a term of twenty years with effect from the 1st July 1919. At the rates proposed by the Settlement Officer the new demand was calculated to yield an increase of Rs. 5.05 lakhs, or 27.65 per cent. more than the old demand of Rs. 18.26 lakhs. The Local Government accepted the Settlement Officer's proposals with slight modifications and at the sanctioned rates the Land Revenue demand will be Rs. 23.04 lakhs, or an increase of 26.17 per cent. Owing, however, to the introduction of intermediate rates in cases in which the new demand exceeds the old one by more than 50 per cent., the demand for the first five years will be appreciably less than the demand calculated at the full sanctioned rates.

The expenditure during the year of report of all the Settlement Parties which were at work was Rs. 2.16 lakhs. For the area in which field work was completed, settlement operations cost Rs. 91 per square mile, or approximately four annas per occupied acre.

Land Records.

Area under
Supplementary
Survey.

19. The rural area under supplementary survey was 50,342 square miles as against 50,314 square miles at the close of 1917-18. An increase of 6 square miles took place in the Bassein District, owing to the inclusion of the newly surveyed Lahagyi Tract, and of 5 square miles in the Myaungmya District, while there were nominal increases of 51 and 3 square miles in the Katha and Thayetmyo Districts, respectively, owing to the correction of previous errors. The occupied area was 17,512,332 acres, the cropped area 13,600,810 acres and the revenue demand Rs. 3,49,66,759. As compared with 1917-18, the occupied area increased by 93,120 acres, chiefly in Lower Burma, but unsatisfactory rainfall resulted in decreases of 154,429 acres in the cropped area and Rs. 16,440 in the revenue demand. In the Tharrawaddy and Insein Districts there was a considerable enhancement of demand, due to the introduction of full instead of intermediate rates of assessment.

The area under supplementary survey in towns increased by 4 square miles to 257 square miles, due to the addition of one square mile to the area of Tavoy town and to towns in the Kyaukse District coming under supplementary survey for the first time. The total land revenue and rent and land rate increased from Rs. 13,56,159 to Rs. 13,81,202, a difference of Rs. 25,043. Rangoon Town is mainly responsible for the increase, as the assessment of 215 encroachments and the issue of 540 new leases in that town resulted in an increased revenue of Rs. 20,865. There were also minor increases in Kyaukse, Insein, Tharrawaddy, Prome and Thayetmyo, while in Meiktila the adjustment of rates erroneously assessed on agricultural land in 1917-18 accounted for a decrease of Rs. 9,398. Municipal taxes assessed by the Land Records Department declined

by Rs. 22,480 from Rs. 6,96,892 to Rs. 6,74,412. This decrease is accounted for by Ma-ubin and Mergui Municipal assessments no longer being carried out by the staff of the Land Records Department. There was an increased demand in the Tharrawaddy District, owing to assessments being made for the first time in the notified areas of Minhla, Zigôn and Nattalin.

CHAP. II.—
ADMINISTRATION OF
THE LAND.

20. The total cost of supplementary survey was Rs. 15,85,390, an increase of Rs. 7,141 on last year's figures. An increase of Rs. 8,960 under the head of superintendence is the result of grade promotion and the appointment of Assistants to eight districts, and of Rs. 4,779 in the cost of the subordinate field staff is due mainly to an increase of seven surveyors on the Akyab District staff. On the other hand, the completion of the resurvey of Rangoon and Meiktila towns is responsible for a saving of Rs. 6,958, there being no charges for masonry pillars for the protection of town survey marks during the year. The incidence of cost stands at 4.28 per cent. of the revenue assessed, an increase of .02 per cent. on 1917-18, but a decrease of .03 per cent. on 1916-17.

Cost of
Supplemen-
tary Survey.

21. Two Assistant Superintendents of Land Records passed their final examinations during the year and seven others are in various stages of training. The number of survey schools was 18, the same figure as last year, but the number of pupils declined from 232 to 217, eight schools showing a decrease and seven an increase in attendance. All the 140 available scholarships were allotted to the value of Rs. 15,381. The total expenditure was Rs. 39,379 against an income of Rs. 2,484. The net cost of educating each pupil was therefore Rs. 170 as compared with Rs. 161 last year, the increase being due to the payment of travelling and subsistence allowances to candidates attending the annual final examination. The results of this examination, for which pupils of Government Survey Schools and private candidates specially recommended by Deputy Commissioners are eligible, were less favourable than in 1917-18. The percentages of passes in the three subjects of Arithmetic, Revenue Law and Surveying obtained by pupils of Government Survey Schools were 72, 92, and 60, respectively, while in the case of private students the percentages were only 51, 76 and 29. Except in the case of the last mentioned figure, which is exceptionally low, the percentage results are, however, either equal to, or above the average for the past five years.

Training of
Officers.

Certain minor alterations and improvements in the system of training in survey schools have recently been sanctioned, but this subject will be reconsidered in connection with the Land Records system of the Province as a whole. This system will shortly be examined with the object of ascertaining whether some modifications in the direction of increased simplicity are not desirable, and matters such as the introduction of a system of permanent holding numbers and of fixed assessment, and better co-ordination of the Land Records with the Settlement Department will be considered.

At the commencement of the year the number of apprentices under training was 283, but before its close this number, owing to resignations and removals, was reduced to 256, or 11 less than last year. The training was well carried out and 88 per cent. of the number examined were awarded final proficiency certificates. The number of certificate holders, who were appointed permanently during the year was 94, while the services of 202 were utilised in leave vacancies. During the year 17 vacancies in the ranks of inspectors were filled, and training camps prior to taking the field were held in all but four districts.

22. The area over which agricultural statistics were collected during the year rose from 17,419,000 acres to 17,501,000 acres. The area sold during the year increased from 439,611 acres to 480,074, and the area mortgaged from 421,452 acres to 449,253. Though both figures show an increase on the previous year, they are still less than in any year since the war began, except last year. The total area under mortgage has, however, more than doubled since 1913-14, and stands now at 2,819,900 acres. The area redeemed during the year was 244,672 acres and shows little change from the previous year.

Transfer of
Land.

Chap. II.—
Agriculture—
Land.

The area transferred by sale was 3·7 per cent. of the whole area covered by the statistics, or 0·2 per cent. more than in 1917-18. The area mortgaged without possession during the year was 2·5 per cent. of the whole, or 0·1 per cent. more than in the previous year; while the area redeemed remained stationary at 1·4 per cent. of the whole. The total area held under non-usufructuary mortgage at the end of the year rose from 14·4 per cent. to 16·1 per cent. of the whole.

In Lower Burma the areas sold and mortgaged formed, respectively, 4·5 and 4·6 per cent. of the area occupied, while in Upper Burma the corresponding figures were only 0·6 and 0·1 per cent., respectively.

The total value of the land sold during the year rose from Rs. 2,75·30 lakhs to Rs. 2,87·02 lakhs, and that for which the land was mortgaged from Rs. 1,73·63 lakhs to Rs. 1,89·23 lakhs. The average value of the land sold fell from Rs. 63 per acre to Rs. 60, while the average value for which land was mortgaged rose by Re. 1 to Rs. 42 per acre.

Ninety-two per cent. of the area sold and 97 per cent. of the area mortgaged was in Lower Burma. Henzada, Pyapōn and Thatōn, and also Tharrawaddy as regards sales, but not as regards mortgages, are the only exceptions to the rule that during the year both sales and mortgages increased in all the important paddy-producing districts. The largest increases are shown in the Bassein, Pegu and Myaungmya Districts. Of the eight districts in which sales of over 25,000 acres took place the Akyab and Lianthawaddy Districts both show decreases of Rs. 7 in the average value per acre, while the other districts all show increases ranging from Re. 1 per acre in Myaungmya to Rs. 7 in Pyapōn. The area mortgaged also exceeded 25,000 acres in eight districts, but there was little variation in the average value per acre, except in the Pyapōn District, where it increased by Rs. 4 per acre. In Upper Burma sales exceeding 5,000 acres in area were reported only from the three districts of Mandalay, Kyaukse and Yamēthin. All Upper Burma districts, except Pakōkku, showed an increase in the area under mortgage, but only in the five districts of Kyaukse, Yamēthin, Minbu, Mandalay and Shwebo did the area mortgaged without possession exceed 5,000 acres at the end of the year. Land is more valuable in these five districts than elsewhere in Upper Burma; four of them are irrigated, whilst the paddy producing portion of the Yamēthin District belongs geographically, if not politically, to Lower Burma, and enjoys a fairly constant rainfall. In the Minbu District the average sale value increased by Rs. 29 per acre, owing to the sale of land of better quality in the irrigated portions of the district. In the districts of Pakōkku, Myingyan, Magwe and Yamēthin, however, the average sale value declined by amounts ranging from Rs. 10 to Rs. 22 per acre.

Scarcity of capital and the consequent contraction of the credit of cultivators continued to influence transactions in land, though to a less extent than in the previous year. Sales between agriculturists were not numerous, the calling-in of outstanding loans continued and the usual expedient of redeeming lands lightly encumbered and re-mortgaging at higher figures or selling out-right was resorted to. The percentage of cases in which the original owner resumed possession was very small. As in the previous year a considerable number of so-called sales were really foreclosures of previously existing mortgages, which with capital and accumulated interest worked out to a higher value than the average selling price per acre. In many cases also, transactions reported as sales are really mortgages. Near Rangoon and in Insein the price of land was inflated by the sale of gardens and quasi-urban lands for conversion to residential purposes. On the other hand, the better market for the paddy crop of the year undoubtedly induced the money-lending classes to advance larger sums on the security of agricultural land. In Upper Burma the higher price obtained for cotton, sessamum, peas and other crops tended to raise the selling price of land used for upland cultivation and to enhance its value as a security for loans. On the whole, in both Upper and Lower Burma the cultivators appear to have weathered the stress of the past five years more successfully than might have been expected, and, had the monsoon of 1918 been more favourable, the general condition of cultivators might even have been described as one of distinct prosperity.

Waste Lands.

23. The area granted or leased for cultivation rose considerably from 6,260 acres to 16,403 acres, mainly owing to larger areas being taken up for rubber cultivation in the Tenasserim Division and in the Hanthawaddy and Insein Districts of the Pegu Division. In the Thatôn District a considerable area was applied for with the object of planting cocoanut palms, and in the same district 173 acres were also granted for the cultivation of citronella. Two applications were received for the cultivation of Kapok (*Eriodendron Infructuosum*) in the Tavoy District. Grants or leases for ordinary rice cultivation continued to be issued only in special circumstances rendering the conferment of title desirable.

Char. II.—
Adminis-
tration of
Waste Land.
Grants and
leases for
cultivation.

24. The area granted free of revenue for the erection of religious edifices, such as monasteries, shrines and pagodas fell from 122 to 109 acres and that granted for public purposes, such as burial grounds, increased from 32 to 24 acres—fluctuations which do not require comment. The area of land allotted as an appanage of the office of headman rose from 234 acres to 437 acres, the increase being mainly in the Bhamo District. The value of additional assignments of land revenue for the maintenance of public servants and for other purposes increased slightly from Rs. 539 to Rs. 786, and the total value of all such assignments at the end of the year was Rs. 51,549 as compared with Rs. 50,663 at the end of the previous year. There were no specially large assignments.

Revenue-
free grants
of land and
assignments
of land
revenue.

There was no change in the number of grants under either the rules of 1839-41 or those of 1865, but the assessment of certain of these grants was revised during the year with a slight resultant increase in revenue.

Government Estates and Wards' Estates.

25. The character of the land tenures in Burma is explained in paragraph 39 *et seq* of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1911-12. Apart from Government lands of the kind therein described, there are no Government estates in the special sense of particular cultivated areas managed by Government after the fashion of a private landlord. There are no wards' estates.

Revenue and Rent-paying Classes.

26. Of the total occupied area for which statistics are recorded, 14,616,359 acres were occupied by agriculturists and 2,884,193 acres by non-agriculturists. The area held by agriculturists decreased by 42,909 acres, and the area held by non-agriculturists increased by 124,151 acres as compared with the previous year. The area held by resident non-agriculturists has increased by 20,212 acres to 870,547 acres and by non-resident non-agriculturists by 103,937 acres to 2,013,646 acres. The percentage of the whole area occupied by agriculturists was 83.5 against 84.2 in 1917-18 and 84.4 in 1916-17.

Area held
by agricul-
turists.

In Lower Burma, including the Thayetmyo District, agriculturists occupied 7,222,458 acres, or 77.8 per cent. of the occupied area, against 77 per cent. in the previous year. Non-agriculturists occupied 2,309,508 acres, or 24.2 per cent. of the whole area, against 23 per cent. in the previous year. The decrease in the areas held by agriculturists occurred chiefly in the districts of Pyapôn (13,759 acres), Akyab (10,879 acres), Hanthawaddy (10,496 acres), Myaungmya (8,018 acres) and Insein (5,219 acres). Non-agriculturists now hold 36 per cent. of the whole occupied area in the Pyapôn District, 18 per cent. in the Akyab District, 43 per cent. in the Hanthawaddy District, 26 per cent. in the Myaungmya District and 34 per cent. in the Insein District. The percentage of the total area held by non-resident non-agriculturists was 18 per cent. and by resident non-agriculturists 6.2 per cent. The percentage held by non-resident non-agriculturists was highest in the Hanthawaddy District (36 per cent.) and exceeded 20 per cent. in the Pegu and Pyapôn Districts.

CHAP. II.—
ADMINIS-
TRATION OF
THE LAND.

In Upper Burma, excluding the Thayetmyo District, agriculturists occupied 7,393,801 acres, or 92·8 per cent., and non-agriculturists 574,685 acres, or 7·2 per cent. of the area occupied. The percentage of area held by non-agriculturists exceeded 10 per cent. in the Minbu and Lower and Upper Chindwin Districts only.

Tenancies.

27. The area let at full rents decreased slightly by 42,661 acres to 3,471,515 acres, of which 3,369,369 acres, or 97 per cent., were in Lower Burma. The largest increase of 22,723 acres was in the Henzada District, but the Hanthawaddy, Pegu, Bassein and Pyapôn Districts also show increases of over 10,000 acres. In the Bassein District the increase in the rented area is again ascribed to the fact that numbers of small holders have had to part with their lands, owing to financial stress, and similar reasons are given in the Hanthawaddy and Pyapôn Districts. The area let at full rents exceeded 50 per cent. of the occupied area in the three districts of Hanthawaddy, Pyapôn and Pegu. No instances of oppression or rack-renting by landlords were recorded; on the other hand, in the Thatôn District, landlords accepted reduced rents from tenants, whose crops had suffered from floods or other reasons. During the year of report the number of tenants who had rented the same land continuously for five years or more, increased by 980 to 30,792, or 14 per cent. of the number of tenants.

The total amount of rent paid increased by Rs. 1,49·20 lakhs to Rs. 4,93·77 lakhs, owing not only to the larger area sub-let, but to the higher prices at which rents in kind were commuted. Taking the same four districts as last year in which the rent roll was largest, the money value in Hanthawaddy rose from Rs. 54 lakhs to nearly Rs. 75 lakhs, in Pegu from Rs. 40 lakhs to nearly Rs. 70 lakhs, in Myaungmya from Rs. 37 lakhs to Rs. 59 lakhs and in Pyapôn from Rs. 35 lakhs to Rs. 50 lakhs. The rise in rents in all districts has been general, except in Insein, where the area let and the rent realized were reduced by abnormal floods. The rents in 1917-18 were very low compared with the previous year and this year's increase appears to be a reversion to more normal conditions.

CHAPTER III. PROTECTION.

REFERENCES—

- Report on the Police Administration of Burma for the year 1918.
Report on the Rangoon Town Police for the year 1918.
Resolution on the Reports on Village Administration in Burma for the year 1918.
Returns showing the measures adopted for the extermination of Wild Animals and Poisonous Snakes in Burma for the year 1918.
Reports on the Administration of Criminal Justice in Burma for the year 1918.
Report on the Prison Administration of Burma for the year 1918.
Reports on the Administration of Civil Justice in Burma for the year 1918.
Note on the Working of the Registration Department in Burma for the year 1918.
Report on the Working of the Indian Companies Act in Burma for the year 1918-19.
Report on the Working of the Rangoon Municipality for the year 1918-19.
Resolution reviewing the Reports on the Working of Municipal Committees in Burma (except Rangoon) during the year 1918-19.
Administration Report of the Public Works Department, Burma, Buildings and Roads Branch, for the year 1918-19.
Administration Report of the Commissioners for the Port of Rangoon for the year 1918-19.
Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of Burma with Foreign Countries and Indian Ports for the official year 1918-19, Part III, Shipping.
Report on the Maritime Trade and Customs Administration of Burma for the official year 1918-19.
Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India with the British Empire and Foreign Countries, Volume II.
Annual Statement of Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India.
Statistical Abstract for British India, Volumes I, III and IV.
Report on Government Steamers, Vessels and Launches in Burma for the year 1918-19.

Legislative Authority.

The history and constitution of the Legislative Authority of the Province are described in paragraphs 103 to 106 inclusive of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1911-12.

Course of Legislation.

28. The Burma Oilfields Bill, 1918, referred to in last year's report, became law as Burma Act No. I of 1918 during the year of report; and two Bills which were introduced into the Council during the year, *vis.* the Burma General Clauses Amendment Bill, 1919, and the Burma Habitual Offenders Restriction Bill, 1919, became law as Burma Acts Nos. I and II of 1919, respectively, after the close of the year of report.

Work of
Legislative
Council.

The Burma Oilfields Act (No. I of 1918) repealed and re-enacted with alterations the Upper Burma Oilfields Regulation, 1910, which applied to Upper Burma only. The new Act applies to the whole Province. By this Act, an appeal to the Commissioner is given from an order by the Warden, and the Financial Commissioner has power to revise the proceedings of the Warden and the Commissioner. Provision is also made to penalize persons, who fail to account satisfactorily for being in possession of property reasonably suspected to be stolen. In order to prevent the theft of tools and parts of machinery, power has also been obtained to make rules to regulate the removal of property from oilfields.

**CHAP. III.—
PROTEC-
TION.**

The Burma General Clauses Amendment Act (No. I of 1919) amends the Burma General Clauses Act (No. I of 1898), so as to include the "Nagas," a tribe which inhabits the Somra Tract, recently included in the Chin Hills and brought under the administration of the Government of Burma, within the definition of "Chins" in clause (11) of section 2 of the Act.

The Burma Habitual Offenders Restriction Act (No. II of 1919) is a measure enacted to gain a greater hold over the habitual offender, by keeping a closer control over his movements, either by confining him to a certain village or area, or by requiring him to report himself at stated times and places, or by doing both. The control of habitual offenders in Burma was found by experience to be defective, and larger powers than those afforded by Chapter VIII of the Criminal Procedure Code were considered necessary.

Two Bills, *vis.* the Burma Towns Amendment Bill, 1919, and the Rangoon Development Trust Bill, 1919, were introduced into the Council since the close of the year of report. The object of the former Bill is to provide for the prevention and suppression of contagious diseases among cattle in towns and to take power to regulate pawnshops in towns in Burma, and the primary object of the latter Bill is to provide a special agency to secure the improvement, expansion and development of the City of Rangoon on correct and sanitary lines.

**General Acts
affecting
Burma.**

29. The undermentioned General Acts affecting Burma were passed by the Governor-General in Council during the year:—

General Acts of 1918.

- XII.—The Indian Paper Currency Act, 1918.
- XIV.—The Gold Coinage Act, 1918.
- XV.—The Enemy Trading Orders (Validation) Act, 1918.
- XVI.—The Provisional Collection of Taxes Act, 1918.
- XVII.—The Indian Non-ferrous Metal Industry Act, 1918.
- XVIII.—The Indian Army (Suspension of Sentences) Amendment Act, 1918.
- XIX.—The Indian Defence Force (Further Amendment) Act, 1918.
- XX.—The Indian Companies (Foreign Interests) Act, 1918.
- XXI.—The Indian Defence Force (Foreign Service) Act, 1918.
- XXII.—The Bronze Coin (Legal Tender) Act, 1918.
- XXIII.—The Cotton Cloth Act, 1918.

General Acts of 1919.

- I.—The Local Authorities Pensions and Gratuities Act, 1919.
- II.—The Indian Paper Currency (Amendment) Act, 1919.
- III.—The Motor Spirit (Duties) Amendment Act, 1919.
- IV.—The Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Act, 1919.
- V.—The Termination of the Present War (Definition) Act, 1919.
- VI.—The Indian Oaths (Amendment) Act, 1919.
- VII.—The Indian Defence Force (Amendment) Act, 1919.
- VIII.—The Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act, 1919.
- X.—The Excise Profits Duty Act, 1919.
- XI.—The Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act, 1919.

The following Acts affecting Burma were passed by the Governor-General in Council since the close of the year of report.

General Acts of 1919.

- XII.—The Poisons Act, 1919.
- XIII.—The Sea Customs (Amendment) Act, 1919.
- XIV.—The Provident Funds (Amendment) Act, 1919.
- XVI.—The Indian Naturalization (Amendment) Act, 1919.
- XVII.—The Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act, 1919.

- XVIII.—The Repealing and Amending Act, 1919.
 XIX.—The Indian Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1919.
 XX.—The Indian Arms (Amendment) Act, 1919.
 XXI.—The Indian Coinage (Amendment) Act, 1919.
 XXII.—The Cantonments (Amendment) Act, 1919.
 XXIII.—The Cinematograph (Amendment) Act, 1919.
 XXIV.—The Indian Companies Restriction Repealing Act, 1919.
 XXV.—The Indian Merchants Shipping Law Amendment Act, 1919.
 XXVI.—The Indian Paper Currency (Further Amendment) Act, 1919.

Ordinances of the Governor-General.

The undermentioned Ordinances affecting Burma were made and promulgated by the Governor-General under section 72 of the Government of India Act, 1915.

Ordinances of 1918.

- I.—The Indian Paper Currency Ordinance, 1918.
 II.—The Gold Coinage Ordinance, 1918.
 III.—The Indian Paper Currency (Amendment) Ordinance, 1918.

All these Acts and Ordinances came fully into force during the year, with the exception of three Acts, *viz.* the Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Act, 1919, and the Excess Profits Duty Act, 1919, both of which did not come into operation until the 1st April, *i.e.* just after the close of the year of report, and the Indian Arms (Amendment) Act, 1919, which is to come into force on the 1st January 1920. Acts Nos. XIII and XIV of 1918 are to remain in force for the duration of the war and for a period of six months thereafter; Act No. XVII of 1918 is for the duration of the war and for a period of five years thereafter; and Act No. XI of 1919 is to continue in force for three years from the date of termination of the war. Ordinances Nos. I and II of 1918 were repealed and re-enacted by Acts Nos. XIII and XIV of 1918, as were also Act No. VI of 1918 and Ordinance No. III of 1918, the provisions of which were re-enacted by Act No. II of 1919.

30. No Regulation affecting Burma was enacted during the year.

Regulations
affecting
Burma.

31. The Indian Income-tax Act, 1918, was extended to all the Shan States. All the enactments now in force in Upper Burma, except those in force in the town of Mandalay only, were extended to the Byingyi Area in the Shan State of Lailong.

Extension of
Enactments
to Shan
States.

The Indian Non-ferrous Metal Industry Act, 1918, and the Indian Patents and Designs Act, 1911, and the rules under the latter Act were extended to all the Shan States since the close of the year of report.

Police.

32. Excluding gazetted officers, the sanctioned strength of the civil police force was 1,432 officers and 13,748 men. The actual strength was 1,376 officers and 12,696 men, or a shortage of 76 officers and 1,052 men. The deficiency in the previous year was 74 officers and 864 men. The shortage in the number of officers was again chiefly due to only 48 Cadet Sub-Inspectors of Police having been appointed to the Provincial Police Training School against the sanctioned number of 90. The shortage in the number of men was most noticeable in the Hanthawaddy, Henzada, Pyapön, Thatön, Amherst, Mergui and Mandalay Districts. Recruitment for the Indian Army was the principal reason for the shortage, but in some districts the class of recruit forthcoming was not suitable. In others the pay and prospects were not sufficiently attractive as compared with the wages obtainable locally. The shortage was particularly acute in the Mergui and Mandalay Districts, and it was found necessary to increase the pay of constables in those districts to Rs. 18 and Rs. 17 per mensem, respectively.

Civil Police :
strength,
recruitment
and cost.

CHAP. III.—
PROTEC-
TION.

Owing to the absence of gazetted officers on deputation to the Army or to the Military Police, the working strength of the Imperial cadre was only 46 instead of the full complement of 90.

The revision of District Police Establishments throughout Upper Burma and in the Prome, Tharrawaddy, Salween and Tavoy Districts in Lower Burma received the sanction of Government during the year. The nett result was an increase of 73 Sub-Inspectors of Police, 513 Head Constables and a decrease of 1,190 Constables. The object aimed at was to reduce the number of the lower paid ranks and replace them by Head Constables and Sub-Inspectors of Police. Accordingly, Head Constables were allowed as Assistants to Investigating Officers and were also given other duties hitherto carried out by Constables.

The total cost of the force payable from Imperial and Provincial revenues was Rs. 64.49 lakhs as compared with Rs. 64.21 lakhs during 1917-18. The main cause for this increase of Rs. 0.28 lakh was the establishment in September 1918 of two additional temporary Ranges for the period of the war and six months afterwards in the Pegu and Irrawaddy Divisions.

The cost of police paid for from other than Imperial and Provincial revenues was Rs. 2.49 lakhs as compared with Rs. 1.85 lakhs in 1917-18. The increase was principally due to the entertainment of the Special Oil-fields force at Yenangyaung. The cost of the additional police employed under section 15, Act V of 1861, was Rs. 1.99 lakhs in comparison with Rs. 2.53 lakhs in 1917-18. The decrease is accounted for by the abolition of the punitive police-forces in the Tharrawaddy and Prome Districts during 1918.

Conduct,
education
and
training.

33. Departmental dismissals or removals of officers and men amounted to 10 and 207, respectively, a decrease of one officer and 41 men as compared with the figures for 1917. Two officers and 276 men were punished magisterially and 212 men were dismissed as a result of conviction. The total number of officers and men, who were dismissed or removed, was 10 and 419, respectively, as compared with 15 and 492 in 1917. Other departmental punishments were awarded to 274 officers and 1,371 men, which was an increase of 71 in the number awarded to officers and a decrease of 247 in the number awarded to men. The percentage of all punishments to the actual strength of officers and men was 26 and 14, respectively, as compared with 17 and 16 per cent. in 1917.

Special promotions for good work increased to 62, as against 45 in 1917. There was a further increase in the number of other rewards by 411, the total number granted being 3,540, of which 1,914 were departmental rewards and 1,626 granted by Courts in Excise and other cases. The percentage of all rewards to the actual strength was 26.

There was one true case of extortion by the police in the Amherst District and the two Head Constables concerned were convicted and dismissed. On the other hand, true cases of violence on the part of the police fell from 10 to 3, of wrongful arrest and wrongful behaviour from 5 to 2 and of wrongful confinement from 3 to 2. Appropriate punishments were awarded in all these cases. On the whole, however, the conduct of the force was satisfactory. The King's Police Medal was awarded to two officers during the year.

There were no Assistant Superintendents or Deputy Superintendents under training in the year. Two Cadet Inspectors, 49 Sub-Inspectors and 6 Sub-Inspectors of Excise were posted to the school for training. The results of the final examination were satisfactory and 2 Inspectors and 46 Sub-Inspectors passed in all subjects. The conduct of the cadets was very good, but they suffered greatly from ill-health, one cadet dying of influenza and the daily percentage of sick being 2.30. The number of literate subordinate officers and men was 12,381, or 88 per cent. of the actual strength of 14,072, as against 87 per cent. in the previous year. The number of constables other than recruits trained during the year fell from 2,238, of whom 94 per cent. qualified, to 1,979, of whom 93 per cent. qualified; and of recruits from 2,212, of whom 1,290 passed, to 2,032, of whom 1,123 passed. The number of officers, who underwent the annual revolver course, increased from 1,161 to 1,230, and the average figure of merit also improved from 44 to 45. The number of trained constables, who fired the annual course of

musketry, rose from 9,964 to 10,019, but that of recruits fell from 1,502 to 1,427; the average figure of merit also fell from 64 to 62. Classes of instruction in First Aid to the Injured were held in all but three districts, and the number of officers and men, who gained the Badge of the St. John's Ambulance Association, further increased from 315 to 389.

The Police Co-operative Credit Societies in the Pegu and Prome Districts continued to improve and a police coffee-shop opened in the Magwe District was most successful. The annual foot-ball competition, open to all district police teams, was again held in Mandalay.

34. The amount allotted in the Police Budget under the head "Petty Construction and Repairs" was Rs. 75,000 and was spent in executing repairs to existing quarters and constructing temporary cottages, to meet urgent requirements. The amount entered in the Public Works Department Budget for the construction of permanent quarters for the Civil Police was Rs. 2.50 lakhs, and quarters are now under construction in Tavoy, Akyab, Amherst, Prome, Tharrawaddy, Pegu, Mawlaik, Shwebo and Magwe. In addition to the above a sum of Rs. 1.15 lakhs was spent in the construction of permanent quarters and buildings for the force in several districts. Buildings.

Progress in the construction of permanent quarters is necessarily slow and in the meantime a very large sum is spent yearly on the hiring of accommodation for the men, which is both uneconomical and unsatisfactory from the point of view of discipline. The amount spent on account of house rents during 1918-19 was Rs. 69,735.

35. The total number of true cognizable cases reported was 44,519 as against 45,657 in the previous year. The substantial decrease of 1,138 cases is all the more satisfactory, as it is not, like last year, mainly confined to minor offences, and this year the more serious offences against the person and against property also show an appreciable decrease of 331 cases, the total number of true cases being 11,147. Murders fell by 20, rape by 61, grievous hurt by 40 and ordinary hurt by 135 cases, respectively. Dacoities decreased by 5, and robberies by 26, and cases of cattle theft and ordinary theft declined by 549 and 152 cases, respectively. Burglaries, however, increase by 72 cases, the total number reported being 3,593. Under minor offences, a decrease of 603 cases of public nuisance was counterbalanced by an increase of 770 offences against Special and Local Laws, owing to Excise cases now being cognizable under the new Act V of 1917. Crimes.

36. Excluding cases shown as false, mistaken or pending, the number of cases finally dealt with by the police was 38,439, or 13 more than in the previous year, but the percentage of convictions obtained improved from 65 to 66 per cent. Excluding minor offences, such as public nuisances, offences against Special and Local Laws and cases which were compounded, the number of cases dealt with fell from 26,172, of which 55 per cent. were convicted, to 24,978, of which 54 per cent. were convicted. Detection was best in the Myaungmya and Mawlaik Districts and poor in the Meiktila and Katha Districts. Of cases sent up for trial, excluding minor offences, 84 per cent. were convicted, the same as in the previous year. Working of the Police.

The number of persons dealt with under all classes of offences was 53,703, of whom 50,159 were tried and 33,137 convicted,—figures which do not differ materially from those of the previous year. Excluding minor offences, such as public nuisances, and 1,252 persons, whose offences were compounded, the number of persons sent for trial numbered 30,641, of whom 58 per cent. were convicted, as compared with 32,437, of whom 59 per cent. were convicted in the previous year. The number of cases in which investigation was refused increased slightly from 1,894, out of a total of 59,699 cognizable cases reported, to 1,929 out of 59,472.

The number of cases of violent crime decreased by 47 to 1,456. In Lower Burma there was a decrease of 68 cases, but in Upper Burma there was an increase of 21 cases, for which the Meiktila and Magwe Divisions were responsible. The general decrease was shared by all forms of violent crime,

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PROSECUTION.

except culpable homicide and attempted murder, which showed slight increases of 4 and 2 cases, respectively. Firearms were used in 126 cases, including 85 dacoities, as against 134 in the previous year. Nineteen of these cases took place in the Thayetmyo District and were the work of two dacoit gangs operating in that district and the neighbouring districts of Minbu and Prome. The number of true cases of violent crime dealt with by the police fell from 1,491 to 1,446; of those sent up for trial from 944 to 899; and the ratio of convictions to cases tried from 67 to 65 per cent. Though detection was less satisfactory, the proportion of property recovered was nearly double that of 1917. In cases of murder the ratio of convictions to cases dealt with fell from 31 to 28 per cent., but there was a decline of 20 in the number of cases. The great delay which occurs before these cases reach the Sessions Court is said to be one of the chief reasons for the low percentage of conviction. The same reason is assigned for the equally low percentage of conviction in dacoity cases, only 55 out of 188 cases dealt with, or 29 per cent., having ended in conviction. This form of crime showed a substantial decrease in the Pegu Division, mainly owing to the breaking-up of the Chaungzauk gang, 12 members of which were convicted under section 400 of the Indian Penal Code, and in the Irrawaddy Division, owing to the salutary effect of the deportation of a notorious leader and his chief assistants, who formerly operated in the Bassein and Henzada Districts. Unfortunately, this decrease in Lower Burma was counterbalanced by a large increase in Upper Burma and the net result was that dacoities in the Province as a whole only decreased by five to 189. In three out of the four districts of the Magwe Division dacoities increased from 20 to 41 and in the Meiktila Division from 16 to 26, but the most dangerous gangs have since been suppressed. Robberies also declined in number by 26 to 508 and in percentage of convictions from 45 to 44. The more serious forms of house-breaking, namely those punishable under sections 458 to 460 of the Indian Penal Code, decreased from 101 to 99, but there was a large increase of 72 cases of ordinary burglary, the total number reported being 3,593. Only 34 per cent. of the cases dealt with were convicted as against 37 per cent. in 1917. The number of cases of cattle theft dealt with further declined by 549 to 2,403, and during the past two years there has been a reduction of no less than 945 cases. In all, 3,973 head of cattle valued at Rs. 2·51 lakhs were stolen, of which 2,421 head valued at Rs. 1·58 lakhs were recovered. Decreases exceeding 100 cases were reported from each of the three districts of Insein Bassein and Tharrawaddy, but the reduction was fairly general and only three districts showed any appreciable increase. The results in detection remained the same, 46 per cent. of the cases dealt with being convicted. Ordinary thefts declined slightly by 152 cases to 11,669 and the ratio of convictions to cases dealt with remained the same as in 1917, namely 49 per cent. The total value of the property stolen was Rs. 6·18 lakhs, of which Rs. 1·39 lakhs, or 22 per cent., was recovered.

Important incidents.

37. Perhaps the most important criminal event of the year was a serious outbreak on the 5th of April 1918 at the subsidiary jail at Kyaiklat. Two men were taken out of the cage to water plants in the jail compound at about 4·30 p.m. When they were being put back into the cage and while the trap door was unlocked, one of the prisoners suddenly attacked the sentry from behind, while the other one seized his rifle. In the meantime the prisoners in the cage rushed out and overpowered the rest of the guard. The keys were seized and the remaining cages in the subsidiary jail were opened and all the prisoners were released. They took possession of the Government arms and ammunition in the police-station, broke open the treasury and obtained possession of money and property valued at Rs. 27,178 and made off. Forty-one prisoners escaped. Of these, 3 were killed in the Hanthawaddy District and 32 were re-arrested by the combined efforts of the Civil and Military Police, and 6 were still at large at the end of the year. Of those re-arrested, 29 were sent up for trial and were convicted, the remaining 3 cases being under trial at the end of the year. Property to the value of Rs. 11,022 was recovered. Two Civil Police carbines and one Martini-Henri rifle remain unaccounted for.

When the outbreak occurred the Military Police Jemadar in charge of the post and two Sub-Inspectors displayed great cowardice and were dismissed, as were also three sepoy on duty at the time. The enquiry held revealed serious defects in the administration of subsidiary jails, and steps are being taken to reduce the need for such jails at out-stations, by transferring to district headquarters the trial of cases of serious crime, which have hitherto been permitted at subdivisional and township headquarters.

The list of murder cases reported exhibits the usual brutality and disregard of life shown by the Burman. In Hanthawaddy, a woman enticed away a boy 6 years old, and, for the sake of his gold ear-rings and silver anklets, smothered him and threw the body into the stream. The woman was sentenced to transportation for life. In Toungoo, a girl of 12 or 13 years was convicted to transportation for murdering a school fellow aged 9. The motive was to obtain some gold ear-rings and a pair of bangles, which the deceased was wearing. In Prome, a lad of 15 years criminally assaulted a girl aged 5 years; in stifling her cries he injured her throat with a pointed bamboo so severely that she died. A boy 7 years old, who witnessed the outrage, was also murdered by this youth, who was sentenced to transportation for life. In the same district a man, to revenge himself on the parents of a 5-year old child, decoyed her into the jungle and murdered her. Another case occurred in which a party of villagers searching for stolen cattle met two youths gathering mushrooms. They suspected them, and the lads were hacked to death, although there was not the slightest ground for suspicion that these boys actually had stolen the cattle.

A particularly brutal murder with rape and robbery was committed in the Myaungmya District. A large boat was found floating in the river and was identified as that of a villager, who, with his wife, had disappeared. After investigation it was found that the boat owner and his wife had gone to a certain village for firewood and after loading up their boat started on the return journey. Three men followed and overtook them on the river. They drank tea with them and suddenly set upon them. With one blow from a *dah* the boat owner was killed and thrown into the river. The wife was then ravished and stabbed three times. She then fell into the river and one of the murderers jumping in after her, hacked her with a *dah* until she sank. The corpses were not found.

In the Amherst District, the Township Officer of Kya-in, Maung Ta Dut, was stabbed in bed at night while on tour. Although many theories have been advanced for the cause of the crime, the true reason has never been discovered. The police investigated the case with great thoroughness, but were unable to bring the offenders to justice. In Tavoy, an Indian Head Constable was murdered at dusk, while on point duty near one of the most crowded crossings in the town. His murderer approached him from the back and stabbed him in the neck, death being practically instantaneous. The deceased Head Constable had been particularly zealous in the performance of his duties, and it is surmised that his energy led to his murder by a local bully. A Head Constable in the Pakökku District was murdered by an absconder, whom he was endeavouring to arrest for dacoity. The absconder made good his escape, but was arrested some days later after having poisoned himself with a native drug. He died on the day he was arrested. Two Constables in the Minbu District were murdered, but in neither case was the culprit traced.

An unusual case was reported from the Shwebo District. A woman, whose daughter had been suffering from insanity for some time past, consulted a Burmese doctor, who together with 5 assistants treated the patient by putting eye-lotion into her eyes. The patient then became violent and attacked the doctor, whereupon she was beaten and kicked. Finally her hands were tied up with ropes and she was again beaten. At midnight the patient became unconscious and died. The corpse was then rolled up in a mat and buried near by, a report being made to the headman that the girl had died of cholera. The matter, on being reported to the Police, was investigated, and the doctor and his assistants were sent up for trial and convicted.

An attempt was made in the Pyapôn District by an *ex-thugyi* of the Insein District to organize a gang of dacoits. This man had absconded, as he had

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PROSECUTION.

gambled with and lost Rs. 1,000 Government revenue. He was captured by the Dedaye Police with a Government gun and some cartridges. A number of his followers were arrested in different places, and great credit is due to the Police Officers of the Pyapôn District for their activity in rounding up this embryo gang.

Nga Po Set, the leader of a gang of dacoits in the Thayetmyo District, was killed on the 11th of February 1918. An armed police patrol was resting in a village, when suddenly Nga Po Set accompanied by another man rushed into the village and fired twice at the patrol with a double-barrelled gun, a Karen sepoy being wounded in the thigh. The Police party then opened fire and Nga Po Set was shot and killed as he was running away. His accomplice made good his escape with the rest of the gang, who were waiting outside the village. A flint lock gun and some cartridges were recovered. Of this gang, two were killed, two were convicted and one is still at large. The Po Kyan-Tun Wa gang, mentioned in last year's report, has been broken up at last. Po Maung, one of the leaders, was wounded by Po Kyan, as the latter suspected that he was about to surrender. Po Maung then fell into the hands of the Police and the guns belonging to Po Maung and Tun Wa have been captured. Po Kyan and Tun Wa are still at large and are being closely pursued. This gang was responsible for six armed dacoities.

The two men, Nga Ya Gyaw and Nga Kya Yan, who broke away from Nga Kala's gang in 1917 and started operations in the Minbu and Thayetmyo Districts, have been accounted for. Nga Ya Gyaw and Nga Kya Yan were shot dead by an armed patrol party of the Thayetmyo District. Good work was done by Sub-Inspector Maung Bo of the Magwe District in arresting Nga Pan Aung, who had formed a dacoit gang in the Thayetmyo District. A Winchester repeating shot gun was recovered, but it was not found possible to send Nga Pan Aung up for trial.

An interesting account is given of operations against dacoits in the Meiktila District. In the first dacoity that took place during the year, the villagers resisted and captured one man, who proved to be the well-known dacoit, Nga Tin Saw Gyi. This man made a statement, and, from the information given, Inspector Maung Po Hnone of the Criminal Investigation Department established the identity of a number of men, who had committed several dacoities and other crimes in the Meiktila and surrounding districts during 1917. The gang numbered 17 was under the leadership of Nga San Mya. Eight members of this gang were placed on security under section 110, Code of Criminal Procedure. Nga Tin Saw Gyi was convicted of dacoity and sentenced to transportation.

A series of undetected cases with firearms then took place, and it was found that an old gang had broken out again under the leadership of a certain Nga Kyi Nyo. Nga Kyi Nyo and 8 others were dealt with under the Village Act, and one man was placed on security in the Meiktila District and two in the Pakoku District. A third gang was then identified under the leadership of Nga Shwe Daung, who had only recently arrived from Pegu. This gang was arrested by the villagers at Nebugôn, where, in the course of a dacoity, one of them was killed and 3 guns were recovered. Another dacoit was wounded and arrested by Inspector Maung San Bu after a long chase, while Nga Shwe Daung was also arrested. Nga Shwe Daung has been placed on security under section 110, Criminal Procedure Code. The effects of this good work are apparent, and since the dacoity at Nebugôn in September, no case of dacoity with firearms had been reported up to the end of the year.

The Myingyan District was also subjected to an outbreak of dacoities and two formidable gangs were discovered, the first being led by Nga Po Hmi, who possessed two muzzle-loading guns and committed a number of dacoities. It was not possible to obtain evidence against them in the actual cases and Nga Po Hmi and his brothers were ordered to reside in Katha. The gang continued their depredations, but finally surrendered two guns. Towards the end of the year another most formidable gang armed with revolvers, under the leadership of Nga ha Hpein of the Meiktila District was discovered. Deputy Superintendent Maung Gale and Inspector Maung Po Hnone were able to detect two cases committed by this gang and to recover one revolver. The case was pending at the end of the year.

CHAP. III—
PROSECUTION
TION.
Offences
under Spe-
cial Acts

38. There were 7,389 true cases dealt with under the Excise Act as against 6,652 in the previous year. The increase (637 cases) is probably due to the new Excise Act, under which certain offences, which in previous years were non-cognizable, are now cognizable by the Police. Of the number of cases dealt with, the Police were responsible for 2,144, and the Excise Department for 4,158. Of 7,155 cases tried, 6,530, or 91 per cent., resulted in conviction. The number of persons dealt with was 8,667, of whom 8,542 were tried, and 6,820, or 79 per cent. of the persons dealt with and 80 per cent. of those tried, were convicted. The increase of cases is by no means common to all districts. It was most marked in the Pegu, Prome, Henzada, Shwebo, Kyaukse, Myingyan and Akyab Districts. Cocaine smuggling is still prevalent in the Pegu, Bassein and Pyawon Districts, where a certain number of big seizures were made. Tharrawaddy, Amherst and Toungoo report small seizures. It is strange that in Henzada, which used to be notorious for cocaine smuggling, not a single seizure was made during the year. The largest seizure of ganja in any one case is once again reported from Tharrawaddy (20,248 tolas). In Kyaukse a village headman discovered 9,030 tolas of ganja in a bush at the foot of the Bilin Hill.

The closing of 12 liquor shops in the Kyonpyaw Subdivision of the Bassein District in 1917 has been accompanied by a marked decrease in serious crime, without any apparent increase in illicit distillation, and further results are being watched with interest, with a view to broadening the area and scope of the experiment, if it is found to succeed.

A further decrease of 94 cases under the Opium Act is reported, the total number of true cases dealt with being 1,736. The number of cases tried was 1,736, of which 1,669, or 96 per cent., were convicted. Of 2,592 persons dealt with, 2,521 were sent for trial and 2,074 were convicted. The results in all districts were practically the same as in 1917. No large seizures of opium were made during the year. The state of the opium market in China, which has taken most of the Shan opium at a higher price than that obtainable in Burma, probably prevented any appreciable amount of Shan opium coming into the country, and the scarcity of steamers restricted the smuggling of large supplies from the Far East, or from Indian ports. The number of successful prosecutions under section 3 of the Burma Opium Law Amendment Act rose from 191 to 200, the Myaungmya, Henzada and Prome Districts showing the best results. Offences under the Gambling Act increased from 3,607 to 3,900, the number of cases sent for trial from 3,572 to 3,831 and the ratio of convictions from 77 to 78 per cent. The number of prosecutions under section 17 of the Gambling Act, which is a preventive section directed against professional gamblers, declined from 130 to 110 and the number of convictions from 92 to 77. The intimate connection between gambling and the more serious forms of crime was strikingly illustrated in the Bassein District, where 3 murders, 2 dacoities and 3 robberies were directly attributable to cock-fighting, or other forms of gambling.

There were 644 cases under the Arms Act, or practically the same number as in the previous year. Results were satisfactory and 78 per cent. of the 803 persons tried were convicted. The number of guns surrendered declined heavily from 126 to 13, and the special measures taken in the Akyab District to recover unlicensed firearms were discontinued. A theft of 30 lbs. of dynamite, 100 detonators and 3 coils of fuse, dating from the year 1916, was detected, and the thief was convicted during the year. In the Meiktila District 3 revolvers and some ammunition, which had been stolen from various British officers of the 70th Burma Rifles, were all recovered, as were also 2 revolvers and ammunition stolen in the Minbu District. Including a number of temporary licenses, the number of licensed firearms declined by 51 to 2,555. The policy of arming approved village headmen with Government guns was attended with good results.

39. The number of true cases of non-cognizable crime declined by 3,414 to 36,852 cases. The decrease was shared by nearly all districts, and was mainly attributable to a reduction of 3,149 in the number of offences against Special and Local Laws. The most noticeable reduction took place in the Mandalay District, where prosecutions under the Municipal Act fell by 1,696 cases. The ratio of

Non-cognizable crime.

CHAP. III.—
FACTO-
TION.

convictions to cases dealt with fell from 73 to 71 per cent. The small number of prosecutions for bringing false cases as compared with the number of cases declared to be false was again the subject of adverse comment.

Preventive
sections,
surveillance
and identi-
fication.

40. There was a still further reduction in the number of cases under the preventive sections of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The number of persons brought before the Courts fell from 1,557 to 1,486 and the number of persons called on to furnish security from 1,323 to 1,209. The percentage of convictions fell from 85 to 81 per cent. Proposals with a view to ensuring the more careful preparation of these cases are at present under the consideration of the Local Government.

The number of men borne on the surveillance registers of the police fell from 8,727 to 7,821 and that of conditionally released prisoners from 400 to 336. Of these men, 5,861 were actually under surveillance, 1,677 were in jail and 619 were evading observation. The number of ticket-of-leave convicts sent to work in the Tavoy District increased from 615 to 1,029. Of these, 266 were released during the year, 27 being permitted to remain in Tavoy, 79 were sent back to jail, 15 absconded, 11 died and 2 were reconvicted. Though the system proved a success on the whole, yet its ultimate effect on the criminality of the district caused some misgivings.

The number of absconders advertised during the year fell from 1,888 to 1,665, and the number of arrested from 1,405 to 1,306. The number of persons, whose names were cancelled on account of death and other causes, rose from 423 to 650. The total number of absconders evading arrest at the end of the year was 4,327, the three districts of Tharrawaddy, Pegu and Hanthawaddy accounting for more than a quarter of the total. Good work in the arrest of absconders was done in the Hanthawaddy, Bassein and Pegu Districts.

The number of prisoners with previous convictions, who were identified by the police before sentence, fell from 4,902, of whom 1,709 had three or more previous convictions, to 4,511, of whom 1,449 had three or more previous convictions. The number of slips received and accepted for record rose from 15,176 to 15,933 and the number of slips withdrawn from 5,725 to 6,228. There was a satisfactory decline from 3,229 to 1,590 in the number of rejected slips. The total number of slips on record at the end of the year rose from 171,575 to 181,280. The number of subordinate officers trained in finger-print work during the year increased further from 129 to 163. The number of search slips received increased from 7,526 to 7,942, and of cases in which previous convictions were traced from 1,903 to 1,987, of which 53 cases concerned absconders and 96 cases were those of surveillance criminals, whose absence had not been reported. An auxiliary finger-print bureau was established at Yenangyaung during the year to deal with workers on the oil-fields. Expert evidence was given in 253 cases, of which 173 were criminal, as compared with 209 cases, of which 147 were criminal in the previous year. Expert opinion was given in writing in 318 cases, of which 288 cases were finger-prints on pawn tickets.

The Criminal Investigation Department was much occupied with the preparation of material for action under the Criminal Tribes Act and enquiries into the antecedents of members of dacoit gangs. The investigation of Post Office cases and the arresting of military deserters also cast much extra work on the Department. Fifty-seven cases were investigated during the year, of which 20 were convicted. Over 90 deserters from various military units were arrested during the year, besides 22 absconders wanted in different districts. There was a remarkable increase from 21 to 88 in the number of cases of forging Government currency notes.

Punitive
Police.

41. Additional police of a total strength of 405 officers and men continued to be entertained in the Hanthawaddy, Pegu and Toungoo Districts, while the additional forces formerly maintained in the Tharrawaddy, Prome and Thaton Districts were disbanded during the year.

Gen. H. L. P. —
Protec-
tion,
Railway
Police.

42. The strength of the Railway Police was revised during the year and the cadre was reduced by 14 Sub-Inspectors and 20 Constables and increased by 14 Head Constables. The strength of the staff now stands at 414 officers and men, with a resultant saving in cost of Rs. 15,691. The conduct of the force continued to improve and there were no dismissals and only two cases of removal as a result of magisterial convictions. Departmental punishments decreased from 49 to 35, and rewards increased from 60 to 80. Twenty-eight recruits attended the training depot and 18 passed out, 9 with first class certificates. Seventy-four men underwent a course of recurrent training and 15 were instructed in First-Aid to the Injured, of whom 11 qualified for certificates. All officers fired the prescribed revolver course and a prize competition was held.

Excluding cases in which investigation was refused, or which were classified as false or mistaken, or which were compounded, the number of true cases dealt with by the Railway Police rose from 1,391 to 1,653. The number of persons finally dealt with increased from 1,532 to 1,875 and the ratio of convictions to persons dealt with from 73 to 79 per cent. There was an increase of 112 in the number of minor offences against property, most of which were ordinary thefts from railway waggons, from which either one or both labels were missing. There was also a substantial increase from 437 to 653 in the number of cases of public nuisance. This increase was chiefly due to more careful control of the traffic at the Rangoon Railway Station. Cases of house-breaking fell from 81 to 66, but attempts to derail trains increased from 11 to 15, convictions being obtained in 3 cases as compared with one case in the previous year. The number of cases dealt with under the Excise and Opium Acts fell from 110 to 102, of which 88 were convicted. There were 16 successful prosecutions under the Arms Act, and 4 revolvers together with a locally-made gun and ammunition were seized.

There were 11 true cases of violent crime during the year as against 7 in the previous year. Of these 11 cases, 5 were robberies, 3 murders, 1 culpable homicide and 2 house-breaking cases. Three cases of robbery and one case of culpable homicide were convicted. All three murder cases were undetected and two cases each of robbery and house-breaking were acquitted or discharged.

The number of criminals on the surveillance registers fell from 416 to 334 and close attention was paid to this class of criminal. The number of absconders at large at the end of the year rose from 50 to 55. Ninety prisoners, of whom 28 had three or more previous convictions, were identified before sentences, and 7 Sub-Inspectors were trained in elementary finger-print work.

Military
Police.

43. At the end of the year of report the actual strength of the Military Police-force was 15,996 Indian officers, non-commissioned officers and men, or 413 below the sanctioned strength. In consequence of the decision to enlist Burmans for the Army only, the two Burmese companies in the Shwebo Battalion were disbanded and replaced by one company of Karens and one company of Rajputs. The Shan company of the Southern Shan States was also disbanded, owing to lack of recruits and the failure of the Shan to make an efficient Military Police-man, and was replaced by one company of Gurkhas. There were also reductions in Sikh, Hindustani Mahomedan, Punjabi Mahomedan and Jat companies, owing to lack of recruits, and increases in Gurkhas, Karens and United Provinces classes.

The Salween Battalion was amalgamated with the Reserve Battalion. The strength of the Bhamo Battalion was reduced and that of the Northern Shan States Battalion increased by half a company. Twenty-five Mounted Infantry were permanently transferred from the Putao to the Myitkyina Battalion.

A permanent post of 75 rifles was established at Bumkhang in the Putao District and the temporary post of 75 rifles at Konglu was made permanent. The site of the temporary post at Auchè in the Myitkyina District was transferred to Lonjao-kong. Temporary posts were established at Wituk, Tinzin, Sibong in the Kubaw Valley, and Naungbin, Kapi and Mindat in the Chin Hills, in consequence of the Chin and Kuki outbreaks. The posts at Shwenyaungbin in the Ruby Mines District, Talawgyi in the Myitkyina District and Kyaukpadaung in the Myingyan District were abolished, and the Thazi post in the Meiktila District

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was handed over to the Civil Police. The strength of a large number of posts had to be temporarily reduced to find men for the Kuki punitive measures.

The Yenangyaung Oil fields Police-force of 283 men was raised from the Military Police. The Hindustani Hindu element, however, was found unavoidable and withdrawn, and will be replaced by other classes.

The operations described in last year's report were continued both in the Chin Hills and in the Kuki Tracts of Assam and Burma. In the Haka Subdivision of the Chin Hills, Captain Falkland marched on Kap, but spared it, as the Chief proved to be loyal. He then proceeded to deal with recalcitrant villages to the south. The column was out till the 4th April, and out of 17 villages visited, 9 were burnt. The result of the operations was the total surrender of the Hsentung and Yotun Tracts. Meanwhile Major Wright obtained the surrender of Kusa and the partial surrender of Saungtiya, whilst Captain Montefiore with a force of Assam Rifles compelled the submission of Bwenlon. On the return of these columns to Haka, a column was sent out under Major Burne through Dongvar and Laitak to join Captain Falkland near Naring. The rebels, however, retired and all endeavours to bring in the Lawhtu tribes were in vain. A post for the rains was built at Kapi, 30 miles south of Haka, and operations were discontinued in this area. During the same period, columns were sent out among the tribes to the west. Two villages of the Klangklang tribe, Rawkwa and Saika, broke into open rebellion and were burnt by Captain Montefiore. The Bwes and Wantus to the south of the Klangklangs also gave much trouble, but as the result of successful operations by Captain Broome against Laitak, Aiburr and Hripi, they gave in. The result of the season's operations in the Chin Hills was the complete surrender of all rebel villages, except the Lawhtu and Ngapai groups, and the capture of 527 guns.

In the Upper Chindwin District the Kukis in Thaungdut and the Somra Tract rose in sympathy with their kinsmen in Manipur. Early in the year, Mr. Parker, I.C.S., Subdivisional Officer, Homalin, was sent with 50 rifles into the Thaungdut State, to endeavour to dissuade the Kukis from rising. His mission failed and he was attacked. This necessitated a punitive expedition, which was carried out under the command of Major Hackett, who pushed a mule track into south Somra as far as Paisat, after burning all villages belonging to the rebel Chief Shempu and nearly all rebel villages in the Thaungdut State. Arrangements were also made by the Governments of Burma and Assam for co-operation against the Manipur Kukis. A column under Captain Patrick, M.C., marched through the Kubaw Valley, and two Manipur columns marched from Imphal through South Manipur. A column under Lieutenant Stedman, M.C., Assistant Commandant, Tiddim, marched from Lenacot in the Northern Chin Hills to join one of the Manipur columns, but met with strong resistance and was forced to retire, Lieutenant Stedman being severely wounded. Later, a reorganized stronger column was sent under the command of Captain Montefiore, Assam Rifles, and the villages which had resisted were severely punished. In March Captain Patrick, M.C., joined a Manipur column in an attack on Chassad, which was occupied. The combined columns then proceeded to deal with the remaining rebel villages in this area. On the return of Captain Patrick, M.C., the Manipur column joined Major Hackett, and then proceeded *via* Kindat and Tinzin to punish the villages of South Manipur. At the beginning of the rains, a number of smaller Chiefs between the Chassad and Mombi areas had surrendered, but Mombi and Chassad, on whose submission the surrender of the Thaungdut and South Somra Kukis depended, were still in arms. In Thaungdut State, the Kuki villages near Chassad and north of the Nampanga River, and in Somra the villages under Shempu's influence had refused to submit. The columns were withdrawn and posts were established at Sibong, Wituk and Tinzin, for the protection of the Kubaw Valley. It was subsequently arranged that strong measures should be taken against the rebel Kukis in the following cold weather, the operations being under the control of the General Officer Commanding, Burma Division, and a force of some 5,000 Military Police from Assam and Burma was placed by the Local Governments at his disposal. Colonel French-Mullen, C.I.E., Deputy Inspector-General of Military Police, was placed on special duty to carry out the staff work in connection with

the Military Police columns sent from Burma, and became Chief Staff Officer to the General Officer Commanding. The Burma Military Police supplied 8 British Officers and 2,131 men, and operations were in full swing at the close of the year.

False reports of reverses in Haka led to restlessness in the Paköku Hill Tracts. In April, the Superintendent, Mr. Fischer, accompanied by the Assistant Commandant, Mr. Alexander (Imperial Police), and a small escort of Military Police visited Chanim, which was reported to be in an excited state. On entering the village, they were treacherously attacked, Mr. Alexander being severely wounded and a Havildar killed. As the party was insufficient for offensive action it was obliged to withdraw. Subsequently, on the arrival of reinforcements from the plains, a column commanded by Lieutenant French, Burma Military Police, inflicted the necessary punishment on the village. The unadministered tribes of the neighbourhood and the remainder of the administered villages remained quiet and there has been no further trouble.

The operations of the Burma Military Police, both in the Chin Hills and in the Kuki Hills, were in the general charge of the Deputy Inspector-General of Military Police, Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. W. French-Mullen, C.I.E., the Assam Rifles forces being under Colonel L. W. Shakespear, C.B., the Deputy Inspector-General, Assam Rifles.

The total casualties incurred in the above operations by the Burma Military Police were—

Killed.—Mr. C. E. W. Molesworth, District Superintendent of Police and Assistant Commandant, and 38 rank and file.

Wounded.—Lieutenant H. Stedman, M.C., Assistant Commandant, Mr. H. R. Alexander, District Superintendent of Police and Assistant Commandant, and 98 rank and file.

But the number of casualties and the brief résumé of events given above cannot convey any indication of the nature of the operations and of the dogged pluck and endurance displayed by the officers and men of the Burma Military Police and Assam Rifles who took part in them. There is nothing more disheartening than chasing the elusive savage through his own dense jungles with the very remote chance of "downing" a sniper. Moreover, almost every moment of the 24 hours, whether in camp or on the march, there is danger of a shot from the surrounding jungle. All concerned deserve great praise for good work, efficiently and cheerfully done under new conditions and strange surroundings.

In spite of the heavy demand for men for frontier operations, 1,825 volunteers of all castes were supplied to the various units, bringing the total number despatched since war broke out up to 11,683. War casualties reported during the year were 54 killed, 12 died of wounds, 137 died from other causes, 11 missing, 166 wounded, 64 invalided, total 444. The total number of casualties since the beginning of the war is 1,776. Thirty-nine war honours were gained during the year: 1 Military Cross, 4 Indian Orders of Merit, 16 Indian Distinguished Service Medals, 2 bars to I.D.S.Ms., 11 Meritorious Service Medals, 2 Orders of British India, 2 Croix-de-guerre and 1 Medaille Militaire. It is interesting to note that the Medaille Militaire was won by a Kachin of the Myitkyina Battalion. The total number of decorations won up to date is 56, comprising 1 Military Cross, 8 Indian Orders of Merit, 26 Indian Distinguished Service Medals, 2 bars to I.D.S.Ms., 12 Meritorious Service Medals, 3 Orders of British India, 2 Croix-de-guerre, 1 Cross of St. George (Russian) and 1 Medaille Militaire.

The Burma Military Police Volunteers continued to earn the commendations of Commanding Officers. Concerning the Burma Mounted Rifles, a unit formed entirely from Burma Military Police Mounted Infantry (which was mounted exclusively on Burman ponies), Brigadier-General Sir P. M. Sykes, K.C.I.E., C.M.G., General Officer Commanding South Persia, wired to the Chief of the General Staff, Simla, as follows:—

Should be grateful if you convey to the Inspector-General of Police, Burma Military Police, my high appreciation of the discipline, gallantry and soldierly spirit of all ranks of the Burma Mounted Rifles. This unit has been uniformly successful in every action in which it has taken part in Persia during the past year.

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This message was passed on with the following remarks by the Commander-in-Chief in India:—

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India desires to add his appreciation of the fine spirit displayed by this unit.

The names of the officers and men of this unit were frequently mentioned in the despatches of the General Officer Commanding South Persia, and the following honours were awarded:—

One Distinguished Service Order (to Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. Dyer), 1 Order of British India, 2 Indian Orders of Merit, 11 Indian Distinguished Service Medals and 2 bars to I.D.S.Ms.

The total cost of the force for the financial year 1918-19 amounted to Rs. 78.77 lakhs compared with Rs. 62.04 lakhs in the previous year. There were increases of Rs. 7,07,128 under "Other Expenditure," Rs. 1.32 lakhs under "Police Food Supply" and Rs. 2.50 lakhs under "Debited through Exchange," due, respectively, to the Kuki operations, the high price of ghee and the re-armament of certain battalions with the M.L.K. rifle. The expenditure under the head "Political" was Rs. 4.51 lakhs compared with Rs. 4.04 lakhs in 1917-18. The increase was mainly due to the very high rates which had to be paid for transport.

The general health of the force was bad. Eight hundred and thirteen men died or were invalided compared with 830 in the previous year. There would appear to be a decrease, but as a matter of fact there was a large increase, as the number of men who died or were invalided on active service out of Burma, included in the figures for 1917, was not included this year. Six hundred and forty-seven proceeded on sick leave, and 19,689 were admitted to hospital as against 560 and 15,046 in 1917. The increase is entirely due to the influenza epidemic, which, starting from Rangoon, gradually made its way to the headquarters and outposts of all battalions. Four thousand eight hundred and forty-nine cases occurred and 243 men died from influenza or its complications. It was especially virulent in the Northern Shan States, Myitkyina, and Chin Hills Battalions, where there were 793, 1,102 and 411 cases, respectively, and 51, 32 and 68 deaths. In the Chin Hills, a column of 100 men lost 16 within a fortnight. Malaria is said to be on the increase in the Northern Shan States, Bhamo and Myitkyina Battalions, despite the usual preventive measures. Mosquito curtains are now included in the free issue to recruits on enlistment, and it is hoped that there will be a material decrease in the number of cases. The difficulty is to make sepoy use their nets when away from official supervision. The only other epidemics of importance were outbreaks of mumps in the Bhamo (38) and Myitkyina (82) Battalions and of German measles in the Myitkyina Battalion (63). Fortunately, there were no deaths. Slight outbreaks of beri-beri occurred at Mōnywa and Shwebo and at Kōnglu in the Putao District, but a change of diet and the substitution of hand-pounded for machine-milled rice proved efficacious in the majority of cases and there were only 4 deaths.

Two thousand eight hundred and ten recruits were enlisted during the year, out of whom 738 were Gurkhas, 356 Karens, 335 Burmans, 262 Kachins, 245 Garhwals, 215 Rajputs, 172 Hindustani Brahmans, 156 Kumaonis, 109 Ahirs, 62 Punjabi Mahomedans, 41 Dogras, 34 Gaur Brahmans, 27 Chins, 25 Shans, 14 Kurmis, 12 Sikhs, 4 Jats, 2 Hindustani Mahomedans and 1 Punjabi Hindu. The number of recruits enlisted in India was again very small, owing to Army control over recruiting and the superior terms offered by Army recruiters. Permission was received to enlist 50 Sikhs and 50 Punjabi Mahomedans from west of Lahore, an area closed to Military Police recruiters since the outbreak of the war, but the total result was 1 Punjabi Mahomedan and 2 Sikhs. Kumaoni recruiting was stopped in April, as all available recruits were required for newly formed Kumaoni Units. The physique of all recruits received before the signing of the Armistice was again very poor. Of indigenous races enlisted in Burma, the Burmans were obtained through the agencies of the local Recruiting Committees, and the rest by Military Police recruiters, or through the enthusiasm of local officials and elders. Particular enterprise and enthusiasm was displayed by the elders of the Karen Community in the Thabon District in recruiting men of their own race and in looking after them subsequently. At their request, a local

depôt for preliminary training was established at Thaton, and some 200 men of a particularly good type had been passed through it by the end of the year. Kachin recruiting was again poor, only 108 being obtained in the Bhamo Hill Tracts and 37 in the Myitkyina District, and even they were of a poor stamp, though every effort was made to secure suitable men. It is probable that the supply of young men in the Bhamo Hill Tracts has been exhausted, while in the Northern Shan States, the prosperity of the people arising from the great profits in the opium trade has militated against recruiting. Recruiting of all castes was stopped at the end of the year, owing to the surplus anticipated, as the result of large numbers of Military Police Volunteers returning from the army on demobilisation. Opportunity was again taken to have instructors trained at army classes, and a number of men qualified in the Physical Training and Bayonet fighting course at Poona and the various machine gun, Lewis gun, musketry and bombing courses held at Mhow and Satara. The former high standard of signalling was fully maintained and eight non-commissioned officers underwent a course of instruction in Field Telephone work at Solan. Previous to their despatch to the scene of frontier operations, the men selected were put through special courses of musketry and jungle warfare, and a number of men were trained in the Stokes Mortar and Lewis gun at Taunggyi.

The sanctioned strength of Mounted Infantry ponies was reduced from 1,168 to 1,000. The reductions were effected in the Chindwin Battalion (62), Mandalay Battalion (91) and Rangoon Battalion (15), as it was ascertained after careful inquiry that they were in excess of requirements. Of the surplus ponies, 150 were required to increase the transport of the Myitkyina Battalion and 18 transferred to the Police School at Mandalay. The actual strength on the 31st December 1918 was 905, or 95 short. There were 131 casualties. A severe outbreak of Surra occurred in May in the Kubaw Valley, where over 100 ponies were stationed in connection with the Kuki operations. Unfortunately, the rains broke early and demobilisation was somewhat prolonged, with the result that 32 Mounted Infantry and 30 transport animals died of the disease. One hundred and forty-two remounts were purchased.

The actual number of transport animals at the close of the year was 937, against a sanctioned strength of 1,180. The transport of the Myitkyina Battalion was increased by 150, with the object of reducing the number of hired mules and thus making the battalion more independent of mule contractors. The number of casualties amounted to 213 compared with 190 in the previous year and 160 in 1916. This increasing death-roll is mainly due to the ravages of Surra, which accounted for 119 animals during the year. The largest number of cases occurred in the Myitkyina Battalion (57), and in the Chindwin Battalion (37). The experiment is being tried in the Myitkyina Battalion of replacing a number of mules by pack bullocks, which are very little subject to Surra. Great difficulty continued to be experienced in either purchasing or hiring mules, and such as were obtainable commanded considerably enhanced rates.

Though musketry was much interfered with by column operations, 11,222 men, or 70 per cent. of the force, fired the annual course. The standard attained was not altogether satisfactory, and the need for the proposed new musketry school at Pyawbwe was clearly demonstrated. Casualties in the force rose from 1,179 to 1,680, chiefly owing to an increased number of deaths, resignations and desertions. Deaths rose from 341 to 490, owing to the influenza epidemic, and resignations increased, owing to the disbandment of Burmese and Shan companies in the Shwebo and Southern Shan States Battalions, respectively. The increase from 187 to 302 in the number of desertions took place mainly amongst Shans, Kachins and Gurkhas. Half the Shan company at Taunggyi deserted from fear of being sent on active service in the Chin Hills, whilst in the case of Gurkhas the desertions took place while the men were on leave. The number of punishments decreased from 1,674 to 1,454 and numerous rewards were given for good conduct and work.

The Myitkyina, Bhamo, Chin Hills, Northern and Southern Shan States, Shwebo, Reserve and Arakan Hill Tracts Battalions were re-armed with the long pattern non-charger loading M.L.E. rifles, and revolvers were supplied to

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the Indian Officers of the first five battalions. The question of re-arming the Military Police with a new weapon, in place of the old seven-pounders, which are worn out, was taken up and the Government of India suggested the 3-inch Trench Howitzer, known as the Stokes Mortar. Three were loaned for the frontier operations of 1918-19, with a view to practical trial, and if the report is favourable, they will be adopted. A supply of Lewis guns, which were used in the operations of 1917-18 with good effect, is another necessity.

A satisfactory improvement in the care and repair of arms was effected in the case of most Battalions. The shortage of British Officers continued to be felt during the year and it was necessary to utilise the services of members of the Burma Commission and of the Civil Police to officer the force. Good service was also rendered by the ten experienced Indian Officers, promoted to the rank of Naib Commandant, as explained in last year's report.

Rangoon
Town
Police

44. The sanctioned strength of the Rangoon Town Police, including Port, Hackney Carriage and Temporary Police, was the same as last year, namely 106 officers and 1,246 men, but the actual strength at the end of the year was short of the sanctioned strength by 3 officers and 88 men. Though the number of men enlisted increased from 136 to 203, this result was only secured by lowering the normal standard and enlisting men who were undesirable from a physical and racial point of view. The difficulty of approximating to the sanctioned strength is serious, as recently reclaimed areas in East Rangoon stand in urgent need of policing. It is hoped, however, that with the conclusion of peace a suitable type of recruits will be forthcoming in sufficient numbers.

The cost of the force increased from Rs. 6'81 lakhs to Rs. 7'07 lakhs. The conduct of the force continued to be good and was even better than in 1917. Thirteen men were dismissed, one officer and 13 men were removed, 19 men were discharged and six officers and 76 men were otherwise punished. The number of resignations was again very high, amounting to no less than one officer and 89 men as compared with one officer and 77 men during the previous year. The resignations were mainly due to domestic trouble in India, owing to the war, and the high incidence of living. One officer and 12 men died during the year and three officers and 35 men retired on pension or gratuity. Fourteen officers and 407 men received money rewards from funds at the disposal of the Commissioner of Police as against six officers and 481 men in the previous year. In addition to the above, nine officers and 30 men received money rewards from other districts, or from the Excise or Military Departments, or from private persons. One man was granted special promotion, thirty-five men were awarded good conduct stripes and five officers and sixteen men were granted good service certificates. The work of 13 officers and three men received magisterial commendation and the long and good service of one Deputy Superintendent was recognised by the award of the K.S.M. decoration. In all, 207 men passed through the training depot as against 136 in the previous year, but, owing to the shortage of strength, no recurrent training was possible. The health of the force was bad, nearly 50 per cent. of the force having been treated in hospital, mostly as in-patients, during the year. The influenza epidemic was responsible for a considerable portion of this bad record, but a portion must also be ascribed to bad housing and pressure of work due to shortage of strength and consequent inability to obtain leave. The urgent need of accommodation was recognised by the Local Government and steps are being taken to provide quarters at Pabedan, Kyauktada and Ahlone Police-stations.

Cognizable cases of true crime increased from 1,518 to 1,783, while the percentage of convictions in true cases investigated fell from 62 to 58 per cent. On the other hand, minor offences and offences against special and local laws showed a remarkable decrease of 3,445 cases and the number dropped from 8,745 to 5,300. The factors responsible for the increase in ordinary crime are the unrest and unfavourable economic conditions prevailing throughout the year, the abnormal rise of the price of foodstuffs that occurred in the middle of the year,

the rapid growth in population of the recently reclaimed areas, which through shortage of strength remain inadequately policed, and the large number of deserters from military units, who were wandering penniless about the town. Of these deserters, two were convicted of robbery, one of housebreaking, one of theft, one of cheating and four arrested for petty thefts were handed over to the military authorities, and it may fairly be assumed that the number of undetected offences committed by them greatly exceed the detected ones. A feature of the year has been the appearance of quite a large number of forged one-rupee currency notes, and these forgeries account for 31 of the total increase of 265 offences. The striking decline in the number of prosecutions for public and local nuisances is ascribed by the Commissioner of Police to the adoption of more cumbrous, if more regular, methods of procedure. Formerly, a person committing a nuisance or obstruction was forthwith arrested, whereas now his name is noted and a summons is applied for and has to be served.

There was a certain amount of political unrest during the year and consistent attempts by Indian agitators to capture Burman opinion, not wholly without success, have been made. The Burma Reform Scheme has given birth to a large number of associations, all claiming to voice the opinion of the masses, and an election of pagoda trustees, which resolved itself into a struggle between the conservative older generation and the more progressive younger generation, caused some anxiety, owing to the bitterness of the rivalry engendered. More serious was the unrest fomented by Indian agitators, but, owing to the firm attitude of Government and appropriate action taken by the police, no serious results ensued. The first sign of unrest was manifested on the 12th August 1918, when the shipping coolies struck for a 100 per cent. increase in wages, on the ground of increased cost of living. As they were being paid Re. 1 per diem, it was clear their grievances had no real foundation, and their action threatened serious delays to Government transports. The grant of a 25 per cent. increase of wages and the threatened deportation of certain coolie maistries speedily put an end to the strike. Four members of the Social Service League were convicted in connection with the strike, the conviction being upheld by the Chief Court, but they were subsequently released by Government, as an act of clemency on "Victory Day." In September an article, which appeared in one of the Calcutta newspapers, caused widespread resentment amongst Mahomedans throughout India, and inflammatory circulars calling for mass meetings were circulated. Owing to the sensible and loyal attitude of the leading *moulvies* in Rangoon, the prohibition of the meeting called for the 8th September left no aftermath of bitterness. Later in the month, the abnormal rise in the price of foodstuffs and the issue of the new income-tax forms gave mischief makers a further opportunity, and serious panics occurred on three occasions early in October. The prompt action taken by the police immediately allayed the unrest and no looting or rioting took place.

Offences against currency, murder, ordinary cases of theft and hurt, and breach of trust cases are responsible for the increase in ordinary crime. Currency cases increased from 9 to 40, and the increase is entirely due to numerous cases of forgery of one-rupee notes, believed to be manufactured in the Straits or in Dutch East India. Murders rose from 4 to 16 cases, but the increase is partially accounted for by the inclusion in this year's statistics of six cases, which occurred in 1917, and in which investigation was not complete till 1918. Only 6 out of the 16 cases of murder tried ended in conviction, though convictions were obtained in all five cases of culpable homicide tried. Robbery and dacoity both declined from 21 to 18 and from 4 to one case, respectively, but in only 9 of the robbery cases was a conviction obtained and only a small proportion of the property taken was recovered. In the case of the dacoity, the employment of a motor-car suggests the influence of the cinematograph on ill-developed minds. It was committed by a gang, who were subsequently convicted of a second case of dacoity under similar circumstances after the end of the year. In four of the robbery cases, revolvers were used, but it was only possible to detect one of them, though the perpetrators in another case are well known. Cases of lurking house trespass rose from 84 to 98, of ordinary theft from 744 to

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796 and of criminal breach of trust from 55 to 78. These increases are not abnormal or surprising, if the unfavourable economic conditions of the year are considered. There was a satisfactory increase in the percentage of stolen property recovered, which rose from 27 to 48 per cent.

Vigorous action was taken under the Excise, Opium and Gambling Acts. Under the Excise Act the police undertook prosecutions in 112 cases, or 34 more than in the previous year, though there was a marked decrease in the number of prosecutions by the Excise Department, and the total number of prosecutions under this Act fell from 690 to 324 cases. Of the 112 cases sent up by the police, no less than 107 were convicted. Opium cases numbered 106 as against 484 in the previous year. In this class of case also the Excise Department is responsible for the decline, as the police sent up 78 cases, of which 71 were convicted, as against only 13 in the previous year. Prosecutions under the Gambling Act increased from 127 to 258 cases, of which 235 ended in conviction. The Commissioner of Police is of opinion that more deterrent sentences are required in the case of professional gamblers, and the attention of all Magistrates has recently been drawn to the desirability of inflicting deterrent sentences on the promoters of gambling as distinct from mere participants. Under the Arms Act the satisfactory result of 31 convictions out of 32 true cases was obtained. The weapons seized included 9 revolvers, 2 revolver cylinders, 70 cartridges and 19 bullets, besides other miscellaneous weapons. The provisions of the Rangoon Police Act were employed in 314 cases, of which 90 per cent. were convicted, the figures being similar to those of the previous year.

The year opened with 441 criminals under surveillance and closed with 498, of whom 90 were in jail. Of 45 absconders proclaimed during the year, 31 were arrested, in addition to 10 old absconders of previous years. The police also succeeded in arresting 46 absconders, wanted by other districts, besides 10 deserters from military units. Prosecutions for drunkenness decreased from 1,371 to 1,063. Ward headmen and elders continued to render valuable aid to the police, and 37 were granted money rewards amounting to Rs. 675, and many others were rewarded by commendatory entries on their appointment certificates. Amongst other miscellaneous duties devolving on the police was the censorship of 86 vernacular plays, of which 25 were prohibited on religious grounds. Nine hundred and seventy-eight cinema films were censored by committees established for this purpose and four films were prohibited and objectionable portions of nine other films were deleted. Heavy work has also been entailed by the inspection of all passengers arriving in the port and the surveillance of political suspects. The statements of 1,390 Indian passengers from the Far East and African ports were recorded, 214,845 Indian passengers from Indian ports were examined and the passports of 2,253 Chinese immigrants were checked.

The port police had a busy year with 2,174 prosecutions for breaches of the port and harbour rules. A satisfactory feature of the year was that the depredations of rice thieves on the river were checked.

During the year 100 additional motor vehicles were registered and 616 drivers' licenses were issued. To cope with the extra work and to ensure an adequate standard of driving, the appointment of a whole-time Inspector of motor vehicles has been proposed.

Village
Administra-
tion.

45. The year was marked by a very considerably accelerated decrease in the number of headmen in the Province. From 16,807 in 1917 the number fell to 16,257, a decrease of 550 compared with 252 in 1917 and 199 in 1916. The decrease is due to a more vigorous application of the policy of amalgamating village-tracts, when suitable opportunity offers, with the object of improving the status and increasing the efficiency of headmen through the medium of enlarged jurisdictions and thus enabling them to earn an increased commission. The number of amalgamations varied considerably in different divisions, but, generally speaking, it may be said that it does not seem probable that this policy has yet reached the limits of possible advantage, though careful consideration of the merits of each individual case is essential. Abolition of the jurisdictions of circle headmen, as distinct from village headmen, continued, the number of the

former declining by 24, with a consequent decrease of 207 in the number of subordinate headmen not receiving full commission. Progress has been general in the demarcation of village-tract boundaries and in the preparation of maps of their charges for the use of headmen. The useful practice of showing on charge maps and on appointment orders the communications to be maintained in each tract was extended to the whole of the Mandalay Division, and has been commended to the consideration of all Commissioners.

The number of headmen invested with special judicial powers continued to increase, and at the close of the year 1,826 headmen held special criminal, and 1,981 special civil powers, as compared with 1,724 and 1,905, respectively, last year. The extent to which these special powers are exercised is still generally very small, and there is a tendency to regard their possession more as a mark of personal distinction than as powers to be effectively utilised. This is, however, not universally true, and in the Sagaing Division headmen afforded considerable relief to the civil and criminal courts. The cognate question of the establishment of a system of village benches will receive attention, when the scheme of local self-government now under preparation is dealt with.

Though the provincial total of fines inflicted by headmen remained stationary at approximately Rs. 1,28,000, there was considerable divergence from last year's figures in individual districts, many showing a decrease and others a marked increase. The Sagaing Division shows an increase of 40 per cent., but local officers considered that the great majority of the fines inflicted were well deserved. An increase, of over 50 per cent., in the Insein District is attributable mainly to a special cause, namely the enforcement of segregation rules during an outbreak of rinderpest. In many districts headmen resorted to punishment other than fine where possible, or inflicted fines commensurate with the economic stringency of the times, a procedure reflecting credit on their discretion in using their powers. The number of headmen's cases examined by District officers declined considerably from 42,483 to 30,251, but little interference was necessary, and 29,430 were confirmed.

The revenue work of headmen was excellent in Upper Burma, but not quite so good in Lower Burma, more especially in the Arakan Division, which had a very bad revenue year. In that division the distress caused by lack of shipping and low paddy prices was alleviated by generous remissions and concessions, which had the unfortunate and somewhat unforeseen result of cutting down the commissions of headmen by half. The continued prevalence of temporary misappropriations of revenue by headmen in Lower Burma is regrettable, though such malversations are probably due more to laxity than to corruption.

Although a considerable amount of assistance was rendered by headmen in excise matters, much of this help was not spontaneous. The weakness of public opinion against illicit manufacture and sale not only assists the continuance of those practices, but deters the headman from fear of unpopularity from taking action on his own initiative. Encouraging signs were, however, shown by the Tharrawaddy District, where a vigorous campaign by the Deputy Commissioner succeeded in convincing the villagers to a considerable extent that help in excise matters means less crime. Relations between headmen and the police continued to be excellent. The policy of arming selected villages with guns as a protection against robbery and dacoity again had good results, a salutary deterrent effect being clearly apparent even where the weapons were not actually used in repelling attack.

The progress of sanitation is still somewhat slow, but there appears to be an increasing degree of confidence shown in inoculation as a preventive of disease. Suggestions have been made that the abolition of village fences is desirable in the interests of sanitation. No doubt, the crowding of a village inside a fence is responsible for much uncleanness, but the requirements of sanitation and security are conflicting.

The number of punishments inflicted on headmen rose from 491 to 703, every division contributing to the increase. On the other hand, the number of rewards increased in every division, and the number of punishments cannot be considered excessive, if allowance is made for the heavy responsibilities of headmen and the

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numerous temptations to which they are exposed. In general, the conduct of headmen was good, and they rendered much excellent service in recruiting, in war fund collections and in lightening the task of administration during another year of war. A proposal for the appointment of a subordinate village official to relieve the headman of some of his drudgery and to supplement the collection of information by the village beat police officials is at present under consideration.

The number of fines inflicted on village-tracts fell from 236 to 194 and the amounts realised from Rs. 80,723 to Rs. 57,373. The Toungoo and Myingyan Districts showed substantial increases from *nil* to 6 and from 9 to 17, respectively. On the other hand, the number of fines dropped in Insein from 11 to 4, in Bassein from 12 to 6 and in Tharrawaddy from 22 to 8. Orders have issued requiring a higher standard of proof of complicity or knowledge on the part of villagers before such collective fines are imposed. Generally speaking, the improvement of village administration continued to receive the earnest attention of Government and District officers were encouraged to initiate cautious and well-considered experiments with this end in view.

Wild animals and snakes.

46. During the year 1918 ninety-five persons were killed by wild animals, other than snakes, as against 81 in 1917 and 75 in 1916. The Arakan Division, in which there were 25 deaths as compared with only 8 last year, is entirely responsible for the increase, the figures in other divisions remaining practically stationary. In the districts of that division 14 persons were killed by tigers, 6 by alligators, 2 by wild pigs, 2 by wild dogs and 1 by a panther. In the whole Province the number of deaths caused by tigers increased from 43 to 53 and those caused by alligators, wild pigs and wild dogs from 5 to 17. A wild ox and a bison were responsible for one death each. On the other hand, the number of deaths caused by elephants declined from 18 to 7.

The number of persons who died of snake-bite was 1,336 as against 1,473 in 1917. There was a remarkable increase in the Sagaing District, where snakes were responsible for 246 deaths as against only 89 in the previous year. On the other hand, mortality from this cause decreased considerably in the districts of the Meiktila and Magwe Divisions.

The number of wild animals, other than snakes, destroyed decreased from 5,873 to 4,832, and there was a consequential decrease in the amount of rewards paid from Rs. 76,339 to Rs. 70,227. The number of elephants killed increased considerably from 58 to 103, of which 84 were destroyed in the Ruby Mines District, in which special measures for their extermination were taken. There was a slight rise from 484 to 519 in the number of tigers destroyed, but a considerable fall from 2,974 to 2,395 in the number of leopards and panthers disposed of, the decline being most marked in the Katha, Bhamo and Minbu Districts. The number of bears destroyed was 1,333, or nearly 200 less than the previous year, and the number of other animals also fell from 837 to 482, owing to 357 pigs and one alligator being killed last year in the Akyab District as against none this year. The number of snakes shown as having been destroyed declined from 16,398 to 13,136, the Minbu and Maubin Districts showing large decreases and the Tharrawaddy District a striking increase. It is probable, however, that the statistics of snakes killed are not very reliable, no rewards being now payable for their destruction. The number of gun licenses granted for the protection of crops and for the destruction of wild animals decreased slightly from 8,051 to 7,726. Of these 2,092 were held under the Indian Arms Act and the balance under various special laws applicable to hill tracts.

Criminal Justice.

General.

47. The Chief Court, which controls the administration of criminal justice in Lower Burma, consisted at the end of the year of the normal number of five Judges, one appointment of temporary Additional Judge not having been extended

beyond the end of October 1918. The judiciary in Lower Burma further comprised ten Sessions Judges or Additional Sessions Judges, all Europeans; 22 District Magistrates and one temporary Additional District Magistrate, of whom 17 were Europeans; 8 Magistrates of the first class with appellate powers, of whom one was an European; 168 Magistrates of the first class, of whom 13 were Europeans; 71 Magistrates of the second class and 51 Magistrates of the third class, all of whom were Indians or Burmans. Six Magistrates were invested with special powers under section 30 of the Code of Criminal Procedure during the year, and the Magistrates so invested now number 44. Eleven new benches of Honorary Magistrates were constituted during the year, and at the end of 1918 there were 58 benches in all.

In Upper Burma the Judicial Commissioner controls the administration of criminal justice, and the judiciary further consisted of 15 Sessions Judges and Additional Sessions Judges, all Europeans; 19 District Magistrates, all Europeans; 91 Magistrates of the first class, of whom 19 were Europeans; 57 Magistrates of the second class, of whom five were Europeans; 33 Magistrates of the third class, of whom one was an European; and 14 special Magistrates under section 14 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, of whom nine were Europeans. Two Magistrates were invested with special powers under section 30 of the Code of Criminal Procedure during the year, and three further benches of Honorary Magistrates were constituted, raising the total number of benches in Upper Burma to 28.

The main feature of the year was a notable decrease in the number of cases that came before the Courts, the number of offences found to be true being 9,564 less in Lower Burma and 1,937 less in Upper Burma than in 1917. The decrease was not confined to offences against Special and Local Laws, and there was a satisfactory decline of 1,697, or 6·81 per cent., in the number of true offences under the Indian Penal Code in Lower Burma. Though the sustained reduction in crime is most promising, the volume of crime in Burma is still excessive, and the percentage of serious crime per head of population is far above that of other Indian provinces.

The number of Courts inspected during the year was, on the whole, satisfactory in Lower Burma, but the Judicial Commissioner considers there is room for improvement in Upper Burma.

48. The total number of offences reported during the year in Lower Burma Cases was 73,804, of which 57,822 were found to be true. Of the offences reported, 34,218 were under the Indian Penal Code as against 36,184 in 1917, and 39,586 under Special and Local Laws as against 47,946. Almost every district shared in the reduction in the volume of reported crime, the most notable decreases being in the Rangoon, Tharrawaddy and Amherst Districts with decreases of 7,298, 658 and 435 cases, respectively. Seven districts, however, report slight increases, the largest being in the Mergui and Pyapôn Districts with increases of 222 and 203 cases, respectively. The percentage of cases returned as true to the total number reported fell from 80·09 to 78·35, the lowest percentage of 66·10 being returned by the Myaungmya District and the highest of 91·48 as usual by Rangoon.

The number of true offences of causing hurt showed a satisfactory decrease of 343 cases to 5,005, though the number of those classed as grievous rose by 4 to 980. True offences against the human body declined very slightly, true murder cases falling from 288 to 283, culpable homicide from 69 to 65, while attempted murders increased from 34 to 39. There was a decrease of offences against property of every kind. Dacoities decreased by 12 to 125, robberies by 15 to 232, cattle thefts by 253 to 1,192, and ordinary thefts by 373 to 6,880. The reduction of dacoity and robbery is generally ascribed to the arming of village headmen with guns and to the breaking up of organized gangs. The Bassein, Tharrawaddy and Insein Districts, with decreases of 80, 53 and 61 cases, respectively, are mainly responsible for the satisfactory decline in the number of cattle thefts. This was ascribed in the Bassein District to excellent police work and in the Insein District to preventive action taken against the principal cattle thieves.

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The District Magistrate of the Tharrawaddy District attributes the remarkable general reduction of crime, amounting to 1,113 cases in two years in that district, to an awakening of public opinion, which has no doubt been assisted by good work on the part of village authorities and by an effective system of police patrols.

True cases under the Excise Act declined from 5,277 to 5,036 and under the Opium Act from 2,069 to 1,653. There were also notable decreases of 309 cases under the Forest Act, 577 cases under the Police Act and 718 cases under the Municipal Act. There was a further remarkable decrease from 8,655 to 4,601 in the number of true cases under the Rangoon Police Act, due to the adoption of the more regular procedure of noting down the name and address of a person committing a public nuisance and then applying for a summons instead of arresting the offenders on the spot. The number of offences reported under the Gambling Act increased further by 544 to 3,595, of which only 2,585 were returned as true, the percentage of persons convicted being 52. The Hon'ble Judges are of opinion that many of these prosecutions were ill-advised, and that what is required is more stringent action against the promoters of gambling. The number of cases instituted under the Workman's Breach of Contract Act increased from 925 to 1,109, and again a large number of the prosecutions proved abortive. This was particularly noticeable in the Tavoy District, where, out of 92 complaints, an order was made against a respondent in only one case. As the working of this Act presents difficulties to ordinary Magistrates, only specially selected Magistrates, who will be empowered by name under the Act, are in future to be posted to townships in which local conditions necessitate that the Act shall be worked by Township Magistrates. The number of complaints dismissed under section 203 of the Code of Criminal Procedure fell from 3,856 to 3,231, or less than one-third of the number of offences found to be false or mistaken after trial. The Hon'ble Judges remarked that insufficient use was made of this section, and that many Magistrates failed to make a proper preliminary enquiry in complaint cases before issuing process.

In Upper Burma, though the total number of offences reported to the Courts fell from 29,420 to 27,953, there was a slight rise from 12,316 to 12,527 in the number of offences under the Indian Penal Code, while there was a substantial decline from 17,104 to 15,426 in the number of offences against Special and Local Laws. The number of cases found to be true fell from 23,917 to 21,980, of which 8,820 were under the Indian Penal Code and 13,160 under other laws. The number of cases declared false or mistaken declined from 3,996 to 3,905.

The number of true cases affecting human life increased from 138 to 156, including an increase of 22 cases of murder. On the other hand, hurt cases fell by 87 to 2,330, and cases of criminal force and assault by 87 to 387. Offences against property rose somewhat, there being an increase of 8 dacoities, 29 cases of criminal trespass, 26 of other house trespass and 22 of house-breaking and lurking house trespass, while there were seven fewer cases of robbery. In the Minbu District there was an increase of 11 dacoities, of which six were committed by an organised gang from the Thayetmyo District. Cattle theft also increased in the Minbu, Magwe and Myingyan Districts, but there was a gratifying general reduction of crime in the Yamethin District, due to the good work and co-operation of village headmen. Offences under the Municipal Act fell by 1,755 to 3,550, under the Railways Act by 124 to 549, and under the Forest Act by 110 to 203, while those under the Excise Act increased by 150 to 1,707 and under the Gambling Act by 143 to 1,266. There was a remarkable rise from 71 to 209 in the number of prosecutions under the Canal Act in the Shwabo District, and a rise from nil to 54 cases under the Highways Act in the Lower Chindwin District is considered by the Judicial Commissioners likely to have been due to excessive zeal. The fall in the number of prosecutions under the Municipal Act was mainly due to a decrease of 1,720 cases in Mandalay, and this is said not to have been accompanied by any decreased efficiency of administration. The number of complaints dismissed under section 203 of the Code of Criminal Procedure fell from 881 to 847, and, as in Lower Burma, more careful preliminary enquiry by

Magistrates would, in the opinion of the Judicial Commissioner, have resulted in the dismissal of a much larger number of complaints.

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49. In Lower Burma the number of cases brought to trial fell from 80,650 cases involving 134,863 persons to 71,145 cases involving 1,59,936 persons. Of these, 32,219 cases were under the Indian Penal Code, and 38,926 under Special and Local Laws. The number of persons remaining under trial at the end of the year rose from 6,447 to 7,422, and the Hon'ble Judges considered this increase highly unsatisfactory in view of the reduced volume of work. The percentage of conviction, committal or reference in the courts of Magistrates fell from 66 to 63 per cent., and this decline was also considered as unsatisfactory by the Hon'ble Judges. Stipendiary Magistrates sitting singly disposed of 46,743 cases as against 50,386 in 1917. District Magistrates dealt with 476 as against 547 cases, and Magistrates exercising special powers under section 30 of the Code of Criminal Procedure tried 1,861 cases, of which District Magistrates took up 218 cases, the figures being approximately the same as in 1917. During the year Benches of Honorary Magistrates disposed of 20,900 cases, of which 12,860 were dealt with in Rangoon. Honorary Magistrates thus continued to afford welcome relief to Stipendiary Magistrates and discharged their duties conscientiously.

Proceedings with a view to demanding security for keeping the peace were taken in 70 cases involving 156 persons, of whom 24 were discharged and 117 were called on to furnish security, while the cases of 15 persons were pending at the end of the year. In the previous year proceedings were taken in 114 cases involving 147 persons, of whom 126 were called on to furnish security. During the year 1,296 cases involving 1,331 persons were instituted, with a view to demanding security for good behaviour, as against 1,244 cases and 1,249 persons in 1917. Two hundred and thirty-eight persons were discharged and 1,009 were called on to furnish security, the percentage of convictions being 80.07. Care was taken to apply these preventive sections only in suitable cases and the Hon'ble Judges considered that their working has considerably improved. Forty-two persons and 232 persons were required to furnish security under section 17 of the Gambling Act and section 3 of the Opium Law Amendment Act, respectively. The Hon'ble Judges remarked that the former section might have been more extensively employed against the real promoters of gambling. The number of cases committed to Sessions during the year fell from 535 to 439, the number of persons under trial from 965 to 823 and the percentage of convictions from 55.84 to 53.85. The continuous decline in the percentage of convictions coupled with the withdrawal of many cases by Government Prosecutors indicate, in the opinion of the Hon'ble Judges, that Magistrates committed many cases, which should properly have been discharged.

The number of cases committed to the Chief Court rose from 40, involving 45 persons, to 54, involving 66 persons. Fifty-two cases, involving 64 persons, were disposed of. Of these persons, 49 were convicted and 15 discharged or acquitted, the percentage of convictions being 76.56 as against 67.35 in the previous year.

The average duration of all criminal cases rose from 15 to 17 days, the figure for Benches of Honorary Magistrates rising from 3 to 4 days and for Stipendiary Magistrates from 21 to 22 days. The increase was general and was shared by all districts except four. The Hon'ble Judges commented severely on the increase in average duration, which is attributable mainly to lack of method and failure to insist on the observance of section 170 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Detailed instructions have recently been issued with a view to securing a substantial reduction in the average duration of criminal cases and it is hoped they will bear fruit in the coming year. Average duration in the courts of District Magistrates remained the same as last year, namely 27 days, but there was a satisfactory reduction in Sessions Courts from 58 to 51 days. The number of witnesses examined fell from 302,205 to 277,527.

In Upper Burma the number of cases brought to trial fell from 29,115, of which 12,051 were under the Indian Penal Code and 17,064 under other laws,

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to 27,626, of which 12,364 were under the Indian Penal Code and 15,262 under other laws. The number of persons under trial during the year decreased slightly from 49,688 to 49,674, and as in Lower Burma, the percentage of convictions declined from 62.15 to 60.37 per cent. There was, however, an increase from 3,579 to 3,611 in the number of persons, whose offences were compounded, and, but for these compositions, the percentage of convictions would have been 68.22. A remarkable feature of the statistics was the great variation in different districts, ranging from 45.10 per cent. in Meiktila to 71.59 per cent. in Mandalay, and it was observed that so low a percentage as 45.10 denotes bad work on the part of the police or of the Magistrates. The number of cases dealt with by Stipendiary Magistrates, sitting singly, excluding District Magistrates, fell from 19,609 to 18,619, by District Magistrates from 289 to 273, and by Benches of Honorary Magistrates from 8,275 to 7,330. The Judicial Commissioner considered that more cases might have been transferred to these benches in some districts. The number of cases before the courts in which proceedings were taken, with a view to demanding security for keeping the peace and for good behaviour, fell from 39 to 19 and from 519 to 507, respectively. In the latter class of case the percentage of successful prosecutions was 76.39, which was slightly lower than in the previous year, but is nevertheless satisfactory, and there was a substantial decline from 178 to 86 in the number of persons sent to jail in default of furnishing security. The number of cases committed to Sessions rose from 1.6, involving 250 persons, to 151, involving 291 persons; the number disposed of rose from 142 cases and 231 persons to 159 cases and 278 persons, but the percentage of convictions again fell from 67.10 to 54.68 per cent.

The average duration of cases rose from 12 to 13 days and the high duration in the courts of the Sagaing, Pakōkku, Myingyan and Mandalay Districts was the subject of adverse comment by the Judicial Commissioner. The total number of witnesses examined fell from 91,322 to 89,047.

Punish-
ments.

50. In Lower Burma the number of death sentences referred to the Chief Court for confirmation fell from 111 to 71, in 42 of which the sentence was confirmed, in 6 reversed, and in 18 altered or reduced. Three persons were sentenced to death by the Chief Court sitting as a Court of Session. The total number of persons sentenced to death thus fell from 62 to 45. The number of persons sentenced to transportation decreased from 376 to 373, that of persons sentenced to rigorous imprisonment from 13,626 to 11,518, to simple imprisonment from 2,394 to 1,095, and there was a remarkable decrease from 3,322 to 1,938 in the number of sentences of imprisonment for 15 days and under. As the latter figure includes 1,477 cases of imprisonment till the rising of the Court, it would appear that the inexpediency of short sentences of imprisonment has been realized by Magistrates, but the Hon'ble Judges found it necessary to emphasise that the rule that short sentences of imprisonment are to be avoided must be applied with discretion and not mechanically. Sentences of whipping increased slightly from 1,773 to 1,811 and explanation was asked for from the two Courts responsible for an increase from 97 to 169 in the number of whippings ordered in the Pegu District. The number of illegal sentences of whipping rose from 18 to 19 and the Hon'ble Judges propose to take stringent action against any Magistrate who offends in this respect in future.

The number of persons sent to jail, for failure to give security for keeping the peace, or for good behaviour, declined slightly from 674 to 669. Though the number of persons so imprisoned is high, the Hon'ble Judges do not consider this was due to any lack of careful scrutiny on the part of Sessions Judges or District Magistrates. The practice of reviewing all cases under the preventive sections at the beginning of the ploughing season was adopted in most districts.

The amount of fines imposed rose slightly from Rs. 5.77 lakhs to Rs. 5.85 lakhs, but the amount realised fell from Rs. 5.27 lakhs to Rs. 5.21 lakhs, which indicates that a tendency to impose fines known to be beyond the means of the accused still exists. The amount paid by way of compensation under section 545 of the Code of Criminal Procedure increased from Rs. 26,607 to Rs. 30,230, but there was an unsatisfactory

decrease from 54 to 31 in the number of persons ordered to pay compensation under section 250. The number of persons released on probation under section 363 of the Code of Criminal Procedure increased slightly from 1,090 to 1,102, but the Hon'ble Judges consider there is still much scope for the extended employment of this section. Of youthful offenders, 17 were discharged after admonition and 40 were delivered to parents and guardians under section 31 of the Reformatory Schools Act, as against 28 and 31, respectively, in the previous year. The sentences of 21 boys were commuted to detention in a Reformatory School, as against 14 in 1917.

In Upper Burma 22 capital sentences, of which 12 were confirmed, came before the Judicial Commissioner, as against 37 sentences, of which 23 were confirmed, in the previous year. The number of persons sentenced to transportation fell from 100 to 92, to rigorous imprisonment from 2,950 to 2,923 and to whipping in lieu of other punishment from 574 to 533; but there was a marked rise from 273 to 365 in the number of persons sentenced to simple imprisonment. The number of persons sentenced to imprisonment for less than 15 days increased slightly from 558 to 603, but the latter figure includes the cases of 406 persons sentenced to imprisonment till the rising of the Court.

The amount of fines imposed rose from Rs. 2'32 lakhs, of which Rs. 2'15 lakhs were realised, to Rs. 2'36 lakhs, of which Rs. 2'16 lakhs were realised. The amount paid by way of compensation under section 545 of the Code of Criminal Procedure fell from Rs. 19,213 to Rs. 17,481.

51. In Lower Burma there was a general decrease from 8,334 to 7,376 in the number of persons who preferred appeals against convictions. Appeals before the Chief Court fell from 1,026 to 848, before Courts of Session from 5,033 to 4,600, and before District Magistrates from 934 to 829. The number of appellants before District Magistrates and Magistrates empowered under section 407 of the Code of Criminal Procedure also fell from 1,404 to 1,185. The Local Government preferred appeals against the acquittals of 7 persons as compared with 81 persons in 1917, but in the case of only one person was the appeal successful. The percentage of sentences confirmed to the total disposed of by all appellate courts fell slightly from 68'87 to 67'27. In many instances, however, the interference of the appellate court amounted only to a modification or alteration of the sentence and not to a reversal of the conviction. There was a substantial reduction from 26 days to 22 in the average duration of appeals in all courts. In the Chief Court the duration fell from 32 to 37 days, and in Sessions Courts from 24 to 22 days, while there was a rise from 9 to 11 days in the Courts of District Magistrates.

In Upper Burma the number of persons who preferred appeals against convictions or orders fell before the Judicial Commissioner from 288 to 273, and before District Magistrates from 955 to 869, but rose before Courts of Session from 1,164 to 1,211. The percentage of confirmation remained practically the same at 60'36, there being a rise from 61'19 to 67'75 in the case of Sessions Courts, and a fall from 56'22 to 48'70 in the Courts of District Magistrates. The average duration of appeals rose from 16 to 18 days, the increase being most marked in the Court of the Judicial Commissioner, where, owing to the indisposition of the Judicial Commissioner and other inevitable causes, it rose from 24 to 48 days.

The Local Government preferred appeals against acquittals in the case of 2 persons and both appeals were successful, as compared with 12 persons and 8 successes in the previous year.

52. In Lower Burma the number of cases dealt with on revision by District Magistrates was 7,095, involving 14,257 persons, as against 6,950, involving 13,320 persons, in 1917; the number of persons regarding whom further enquiry was ordered fell from 204 to 180, but the number of persons, whose cases were referred to the Chief Court, rose from 157 to 383. The number of persons whose cases came before Sessions Judges on revision showed a further satisfactory

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increase from 4,287 to 4,564. In 37 cases further enquiry was ordered and in 202 cases a reference was made to the Chief Court, the corresponding figures for the previous year being 19 and 159, respectively. The Chief Court called for 625 cases, affecting 965 persons, on its own motion, as compared with 653, affecting 1,031 persons, in 1917. The number of cases referred and applications for revision was 587; involving 856 persons, as against 341, involving 574 persons, in the previous year. The orders of Lower Courts were confirmed in the case of 1,040, and reversed in the case of 606 persons. The sentences of 33 were enhanced and of 108 reduced, whilst new trials were ordered in the cases of 33 persons; the figures of the previous year were 1,175, 243, 26, 79 and 16, respectively.

In Upper Burma the number of cases dealt with by District Magistrates on revision fell from 3,549 to 3,031; the number of cases called for by them under the Upper Burma Criminal Justice Regulation was 1,821, and otherwise 1,376, the percentages of confirmation being 91 and 92, respectively. The number of persons whose cases were dealt with on revision by Sessions Courts fell from 1,625 to 1,384, and in the cases of 1,340 the original order was confirmed. The Judicial Commissioner had before him on revision the cases of 2,623 persons; in the cases of 1,950 the sentence or order was confirmed, of 4 the sentence was enhanced, of 101 reduced or otherwise altered, and of 237 reversed; and in the cases of 16 further enquiry was ordered.

Prisons.

Accommodation.

53. Exclusive of hospitals and observation cells, accommodation was provided for 17,016 male and 313 female prisoners, against 17,067 and 320, respectively, in the previous year. The decrease is accounted for by the closing of the Kindat Jail, with accommodation for 71 males and 6 females, and by the revision of the capacity of the Prome Jail, where room was provided for 68 more under-trial prisoners, while the accommodation for convicts was reduced by 49, viz. 48 males and 1 female.

The daily average number of prisoners of all classes fell from 16,786 in 1917 to 14,068 in the year of report, the latter figure being the lowest recorded since 1909, when it was 13,681. The decrease is accounted for by 2,041 special releases effected, comprising 1,523 convicts for service as a Labour Corps in Mesopotamia, 380 for employment on the Wolfram Mines in Tavoy, 88 for Forest work, 33 for Mines Survey, 10 for transfer to the Salvation Army Industrial Institution at Kemmendine, a suburb of Rangoon, and 7 for employment on agricultural farms. The accommodation, not only for convicts, but also for under-trials and civil prisoners, was well above requirements.

Prisoners.

54. The year opened with a population of 15,962 prisoners of all classes; 37,459 were received and 39,605 were discharged, thus leaving 13,816 in confinement at the close of the year—the corresponding figures for 1917 being 17,465, 40,655, 42,158 and 15,962. The number of juveniles under sixteen years of age, admitted to jail, rose from 59 to 63, the figures in both cases including a girl; 246 male juveniles, against 307 in 1917, were sent to the jail to be whipped. Of the convicts admitted to jail, 31.85 per cent., against 29.27 per cent. in 1917, had been previously convicted, the highest ratios being returned by Henzada (52.43), Prome (44.33), Sandoway (43.61), Myaungmya (43.00) and Bassein (40.83), and the lowest by Pagan (4.32); the figure for the Extramural jail at Maymyo and the juvenile jail at Meiktila was nought. The number of youthful offenders under 15 years of age was 29, compared with 17 in the preceding year; of these, the number previously convicted was only 1, the same as in the previous year; fourteen of the twenty-nine sent to jail were transferred to the Reformatory School at Insein. The number of convicts admitted to jail was 16,733, viz. 16,244 males and 489 females; of these, 86.72 per cent. were Buddhists and Jains, 5.56 Mahomedans, 5.44 Hindus and Sikhs, 0.40 Christians, while 1.88 per

cent. represented all other classes, the figures for the preceding year being 85.44, 4.79, 5.46, 0.47 and 3.84 per cent., respectively. Of the number admitted (16,733), 82 were sentenced to death, 419 to transportation beyond seas, 274 to simple imprisonment, 15,449 to rigorous imprisonment, 523 to rigorous imprisonment with solitary confinement, and 26 to rigorous imprisonment with whipping; the corresponding figures were 141, 432, 240, 17,131, 596 and 29, respectively, in the previous year. Among the admissions were 5,009 habituais, of whom 4,945 were identified before conviction and classified as such by committing courts, 3 were classified by District Magistrates and 61 by Jail Superintendents, against 5,274, 5,150, 7 and 117, respectively, in the previous year.

55. The total number of offences committed by convicts, including those dealt with by Criminal Courts, shows a further decline from 22,785 to 18,484. The ratio of total punishments to the daily average population fell from 146.50 in 1917 to 141.94 in the year of report. A decrease was again noticeable in the number of offences committed, especially so with regard to those falling under the heads "all other breaches of jail discipline" and "offences relating to work," which declined by 2,095 and 1,382, respectively. It must, however, be borne in mind that the daily average convict population was 2,531 less than in the preceding year. Penal diet, as a form of punishment, was awarded in 1,138 cases, 296 less than in 1917. There were few serious assaults, and only one, as in the three previous years, ended fatally. The number of whippings was 46, compared with 69 in 1917 and 81 in 1916. At thirteen jails the cane was not used. Nine convicts, or two more than in 1917, escaped from custody, three from inside and six from outside the jail. Of the nine, eight were accounted for, seven having been recaptured before the close of the year; the eighth prisoner, while resisting recapture, was shot dead by a Sub-Inspector of Police. Habituals, whose numbers averaged 5,651 as compared with 6,836 in 1917, were responsible for 14 of the 25 offences dealt with by Criminal Courts, and for 22 out of a total of 40 awards of corporal punishment to ordinary prisoners. Out of a grand total of 18,484 punishments inflicted, the habituals were responsible for 11,577, which calculated on the daily average habitual population, works out to 204.87 per cent., compared with 201.58 in 1917. The number of punishments awarded to convict officers was 7,534, a much lower figure than in the preceding three years. Owing to the transfer of many good conduct prisoners to the Mesopotamia Labour Corps and other extramural employments, and the all-round reduction in the population, a general difficulty is experienced in finding suitable prisoners to serve as convict officers, and there is some evidence that those now obtained are, generally speaking, less trustworthy than formerly. The Burman is too easy going to make a good disciplinarian, and the casual prisoner stands in some fear of the habitual.

56. The gross expenditure incurred in guarding and maintaining prisoners in the jails of the Province was Rs. 10,91,133, or a decrease of Rs. 72,094 compared with the previous year, but the average cost, per head, rose from Rs. 69-4-9 to Rs. 77-9-0, due chiefly to the fall in population. The nett cash earnings of convicts sentenced to labour rose from Rs. 1,96,922 to Rs. 2,11,633. The quantity of vegetables consumed by the prison population was 1,357 tons, compared with 1,639 tons in 1917. The amount realized by the sale of vegetables over and above the prison requirements was Rs. 13,149, against Rs. 12,741 in the previous year. The value of farm produce, other than vegetables grown, declined from Rs. 36,673 to Rs. 33,145. The value of the convict labour employed by the Government Press and the Public Works Department, for which no credit is given to the Jail Department, was Rs. 76,622, compared with Rs. 1,13,736 in the preceding year.

57. From January to July 1918 there were 115 deaths, *vis.* 112 convicts and 3 undertrials. If this state of affairs had continued, the health statistics

CHAP. III.— would have been favourable, but, unfortunately, the influenza epidemic made itself manifest in August, and this was mainly responsible for the number of deaths rising to 360, comprising 328 convicts, 30 undertrials and 2 civil prisoners. Influenza was the direct cause of 96 deaths. Further, this disease was the indirect cause of death in prisoners, suffering from other affections, who probably would not have died otherwise, and in several cases acute tuberculosis supervened in a convalescent influenza patient.

Calculated on the daily average prison population (14,068), the ratios, per mille, of admissions to hospital, of daily average sick and of deaths, were 556.16, 23.32 and 25.59, respectively, the corresponding figures for the previous year being 236.51, 15.19 and 19.00. In making this comparison, it should be remembered that 2,041 robust prisoners were transferred to Mesopotamia and elsewhere, leaving the jails with an unduly high proportion of the comparatively unfit. There were no cases of cholera, against 7 in 1917. Only three district jails (Sandoway, Mōnywa and Meiktila), against 11 in the preceding year, returned no deaths, the explanation being the prevalence of influenza during the latter half of the year. Of the central jails, Myingyan had the highest death rate, 59.04 per mille; and among the district jails, Pagan, 158.42 per mille. The highest percentages of opium consumers were returned by the jails at Kyaukpyu (40.29), Sandoway (27.07), Mogōk (26.92), Katha (25.57), Bhamo (25.32) and Akyab (25.12). Of the 360 prisoners who died, 58, or 2 less than in the previous year, were addicted to opium. One factor which has greatly helped to reduce sickness and mortality in the Rangoon Central Jail is the remarkable falling off in the number of cases of morphinism and cocainism, potent causes of diarrhoea, dysentery and tubercle.

Miscellaneous.

58. The Juvenile Jail at Meiktila continued to be run on the same lines as in previous years, and, as in 1917, "A" class juveniles, who had not yet reached their nineteenth birthday, were also sent there, after due enquiry had been made into their former life and conduct. The daily average number of convicts rose from 60 to 80. The conduct of the prisoners was good, and their general management was not found difficult. Only 19 punishments were awarded, against 39 in 1917 and 135 in 1916. There was only one serious offence. A convict night watchman made a cowardly and unprovoked assault on a convict warder, hitting the latter on the head with a stone and inflicting a scalp wound. By way of school discipline, the convict night watchman received fifteen lashes, which involved reduction to ordinary prisoner. Twenty-five youths, against 10 in 1917 and 11 in 1916, earned special remission for being free of punishment for a year. The work of the day is divided into physical drill for one hour, literary education two hours and manual industry five hours. The forms of employment were similar to those in previous years, *vis.* carpentry, cane-work, slipper-making, iron work, timber-sawing, paddy grinding and gardening, besides the usual miscellaneous prison services. This year again, no tools were given to the boys on release, as investigation showed that they do not, as a rule, follow the trades they have learnt in jail. The twenty-three acres of land, acquired for the purpose of establishing an experimental seed farm, have been fenced in, and certain crops were grown thereon. In June 1917 sanction was accorded to the deputation of a Jailor to undergo a course of training in the Agricultural farm at Tatōn, in the Yamethin District, for a period of one year. A Burman Jailor, with an aptitude for agriculture, has been selected for the purpose and favourable reports of his progress have been received from the authorities under whom the training is being carried out. At the annual examination, the percentage of passes was only 37.97, against 51.19 in 1917, the fall being due to the admission of 9 non-Burmans, all of whom had a poor knowledge, or no knowledge at all, of Burmese. The Deputy Inspector of Schools, who conducted the examination, suggested that, in consideration of his good conduct, a certain youth, who had passed the 4th standard and who is shortly to be released, might eventually be sent to one of the Government elementary training classes at Mandalay, Toungoo or Moulmein. A *Pongyi* held 52 services at the jail, preaching to the boys on Sundays. All were well-behaved and quiet, and it is to be hoped their morals

were benefited. The subject matter of the sermons was, principally, good advice as to how to reform themselves while in jail, and conduct themselves after they had left it. CHAP. III.—
PROTEC-
TION.

As in previous years, the scheme of manual training, for young convicts, was continued at all the 7 central jails and at 3 district jails. The object of the scheme is to give the prisoners a training in such handicrafts as would be useful to them in earning a livelihood after release. The prisoners are carefully chosen, and are asked what kind of industry they would like to follow. As a rule, carpentry, cane work and blacksmithy are the handicrafts usually taught; tailoring is included at Rangoon, Insein, Mandalay, Myingyan and Moumein; at the last-named jail, book-binding, and at Myaungmya and Mandalay, rug-making and weaving, respectively, are taught, while at Thayetmyo some leather curing and tanning are done, the shoes for its warder staff being made at this jail. The youth trained as a draftsman, and who, on release, received employment in a Government workyard, continued to work in that capacity and gave satisfaction. Eight young convicts released were each given a set of tools pertaining to the trade learnt in jail. It remains to be seen if they will make use of them to earn their living, it being a well known fact that a very large proportion of these released prisoners take to cultivation, their hereditary calling.

The annual examination of the juveniles at the Rangoon Central jail was conducted by the Education Department on the 15th February 1919. Seventeen were presented and all passed, the details being Infant Standard 6, First Standard 7, Second Standard 2, and Third Standard 2. The Deputy Inspector of Schools remarked that the general results were satisfactory. He, however, added that, in geography, the pupils had not much knowledge of the map, and he recommended that the Infant Standard be abolished on the grounds that the pupils are generally 15, or above that age, and that the beginners should start with the work of Standard I.

The lessened population enabled the jail authorities to bring about a better separation of the habitual from the casual. Thus at certain of the smaller jails (Bhamo, Katha, Shwebo, Magwe, Taungdwingyi and Mergui and Pagan as regards non-lepers), habituals are no longer confined, but, as far as possible, are transferred to the central or to the larger district jails. This also applies to the small jails at Kyaukpadaung and Sandoway. In some cases, e.g., Myanaung and Paungda, habituals are, on commitment, sent direct to the larger jails, instead of to the smaller jails. This has resulted in improved discipline in these small jails, where discipline is more difficult to enforce than in the larger jails. As regards women habituals, these are now generally transferred to the central jail at Thayetmyo, where they are well segregated, greatly to the advantage of the casual female. Juveniles of the casual class are largely sent to Meiktila; the remaining "A" class juveniles and all the "B" class are retained in other jails, where every effort is made to keep them apart. As far as possible, they are transferred to the central and larger district jails, where separation is easier, and the teaching of handicrafts can be properly carried out.

By the grant of remission, 5,460 prisoners, against 5,869 in 1917, cut short their stay in jail, and 3,161, against 3,835, received special remission, *viz.* 1,940 for freedom from punishment for a year and 1,221 for good work. Prisoners are not now allowed to obtain remission for good work unless their conduct is good. Ten prisoners, with sentences ranging from one year's rigorous imprisonment to seven years' transportation, were conditionally released and sent to the Salvation Army Industrial Institution at Kemmendine. One from this batch and three sent in previous years were returned to jail for bad behaviour, leaving 22 on the rolls of the Institution at the close of the year. The work done by the Army is reported to be distinctly valuable, the authorities concerned taking the greatest interest in their charges. The Government contribution to the Institution during 1918-19 was Rs. 5,000. The various ticket-of-leave schemes have been found to work satisfactorily, and they have been a means of preventing congestion, so far as the convict element is concerned.

The number of subsidiary jails was increased from 17 to 20.

Civil Justice.

CHAP. III.—
PROCEEDINGS
IN
COURTS.

59. The administration of Civil Justice in Lower Burma, is under the control of the Chief Court sitting in Rangoon, and in Upper Burma of the Court of the Judicial Commissioner of Upper Burma, sitting in Mandalay. The congestion in the former having been relieved, the appointment of a temporary Additional Judge was not continued after the 31st October 1918, and after that date the Court consisted of the normal number of five Judges. The Divisional and Sessions Judge, Tharrawaddy Division, acted as Additional Sessions Judge, Bassein Division, throughout the year. The pressure of criminal work in the Tenasserim Division necessitated the appointment of an Additional Sessions for this division for three short periods during the year, and Additional Divisional Judges were also appointed in the Hanthawaddy and Myaungmya Divisions for short periods. To clear off arrears, that had accumulated in the District Court of Hanthawaddy and Insein, a temporary Additional Judge was appointed for a period of three months from the 9th December 1918, and for similar reasons the Subdivisional Judge of Ma-ubin was appointed Additional Judge of the District Court of Ma-ubin. The appointment of Additional District Judge, Tavoy, was continued throughout the year. The new Zigon Township of the Tharrawaddy District was combined with the Gyohingauk Township and placed under the jurisdiction of one Judge, sitting at Gyohingauk. Other territorial changes that took place during the year did not affect the jurisdictions of Civil Courts. The Small Cause Court jurisdictions of the Township Courts of Kyaukpvyu and Sandoway were extended to the whole of their respective townships. The Township Courts of Ramree, Cheduba, Myethōnand An in the Kyaukpvyu District and of Kyōnpyaw and Ngathainggyaung in the Bassein District, were invested with Small Cause Court jurisdiction up to the value of Rs. 50, to be exercised in cases arising within the limits of the respective townships. The Township Court of Kyanpin was also invested with similar jurisdiction, to be exercised within the limits of the Kyanpin Municipality. There was no change in the number or jurisdiction of Civil Courts in Upper Burma.

Progress has been made with the schemes, which are now before the Local Government, for the formation of a High Court for the whole of Burma, the reorganization of the superior Judicial service in Upper and Lower Burma, and the revision of the Provincial and Subordinate Judicial Services in both Upper and Lower Burma.

Suit

60. Perhaps the most conspicuous feature in the administration of Civil Justice has been the decline in the number of suits instituted, which, following on a marked decrease in the previous year, makes the number of suits instituted during 1918 the lowest since 1899, while the number of suits before the courts was the lowest since 1901. The causes of the decline are the same as in the previous year, but the prolongation of the conditions has accentuated their effects. The depression in trade and the low price of paddy, due to war conditions, re-acted on the business of the courts by making speculative litigations difficult, if not impossible, and by limiting litigation mainly to safe transactions. Contraction of credit and a realisation by creditors that the times were unpropitious for the recovery of debts were other important factors in the decline of litigation.

In Lower Burma the total number of suits instituted decreased by 5,154, from 43,406 to 38,252, a decrease which was shared by all classes of Courts, except Subdivisional Courts and the Chief Court, which both show slight increases from 1,950 to 2,025 and from 369 to 400, respectively. The figures for both District and Township Courts both show large decreases, namely from 943 to 730 and from 26,044 to 22,120, respectively. There was also a remarkable decrease of 1,275 in the Small Cause Court, Rangoon from 8,525 to 7,250, and it is probable that in this year this Court first felt the effects of the disorganization of the money market and the shrinking of credit. With the insignificant exception of Small Cause Court cases outside Rangoon, which increased slightly, owing to the extension of Small Cause Court jurisdiction to Additional Township Courts, all types of suit decreased. Suits for money, and, movable property

declined by 4,819 from 39,022 to 34,203, those for immovable property from 1,309 to 1,203, mortgage suits from 1,720 to 1,560, suits for specific relief from 674 to 632 and matrimonial suits from 424 to 407. The largest decreases took place in Akyab, Henzada, Bassein, Amherst, Toungoo and Ma-ubin. In the Hill District of Arakan the imposition of court-fees under the amended Civil Justice Regulation furnished a much needed check on the litigiousness of the Chittagonian trading community, which had hitherto revelled in free litigation to the undoubted harassment of their principal customers, the unsophisticated hillmen.

The value of suits filed in Lower Burma declined by Rs. 46 lakhs from Rs. 2,00 lakhs to Rs. 1,54 lakhs. The decrease is due to the smaller number of suits instituted and is shared by all Courts except Subdivisional Courts. A decline of Rs. 23 lakhs in the Chief Court is explained by the fact that a single suit involving Rs. 31½ lakhs was decided in 1917. The decrease in the case of the Akyab District Court is due to the cessation of the forced liquidation proceeding at the instance of the Bank of Bengal. Only six districts returned an increased value and even in their cases the increase was mainly due to the fortuitous circumstance of individual heavy suits being filed.

The number of suits disposed of fell from 44,821 to 38,507. Of these 23.65 per cent. were contested, as against 23.39 in 1917, the plaintiffs' percentage of success being 64.98 as compared with 69.80. The percentage of suits decreed on confession declined from 23.48 to 21.84, while that of suits decreed *ex parte* remained the same (26.42). The number of suits pending at the end of the year increased from 5,016 to 5,332, of which 2,313 had been pending over three months as against 2,178 at the end of last year. In view of the decreased amount of work performed, the increase in the number of pending cases was considered unsatisfactory by the Hon'ble Judges, though allowance must be made for the influenza epidemic and the large amount of special war work which executive officers, who are also Civil Judges, were called on to perform.

The same remarks apply to an increase in the average duration of contested cases from 81 to 87 days. The average duration of uncontested cases remained stationary at 49 days. The Hon'ble Judges considered that closer supervision by Divisional and District Judges is required, and are themselves calling on judges, in whose Courts excessive delay occurred, for an explanation. The Courts in the Amherst, Tavoy and Pyapôn Districts were mainly responsible for the rise in duration, while there was a welcome improvement in those of the Insein, Prome and Sandoway Districts.

In Upper Burma also the number of suits instituted fell from 18,085 to 16,208, all districts sharing in the decrease except Katha, Lower Chindwin and the Chin Hills, which showed slight increases. The decrease was heaviest in the districts of the Magwe Division and in the Yawéthin District, and is generally ascribed to business depression and to the prevalence of influenza. The number of suits for money or movable property declined by 2,166 from 16,157 to 13,991, but against this must be set small increases in other classes of case. Suits for immovable property increased from 646 to 710, mortgage suits from 590 to 753, and there were 28 more suits for specific relief and 12 more relating to matrimony than in 1917. The rise in the number of suits for immovable property is more apparent than real, as suits for possession of State land are now tried by Civil instead of Revenue Courts, and there has probably been a decline, if the suits formerly tried in the latter class of Court are taken into consideration.

The total value of suits filed fell by Rs. 6 lakhs from Rs. 32 lakhs to Rs. 26 lakhs. The Magwe, Mandalay and the Ruby Mines District, with falls of Rs. 3.38 lakhs, Rs. 1.95 lakhs and Rs. 1.70 lakhs, respectively, were chiefly responsible for the decline. In the Magwe District the value of suits is bound to vary considerably from year to year, according to the number and value of suits connected with oil-wells at Yenangyaung, and in the other two districts this year's figures merely represent a return to normal conditions. There were minor increases of value in the Kyaukse, Myingyan, Minbu and Shwebo Districts. The number of suits disposed of fell from 18,147 to 16,197; of these 21.74 per cent. were contested as compared with 22.45 per cent. in 1917, and the percentage of success for plaintiffs was 66.96 as against 67.49 per cent. in the previous year. The number of suits decreed on

confession was 4,270 and of those decreed *ex-parte* 2,212 compared with 5,309 and 2,537, respectively, last year. The number of suits pending at the end of the year rose slightly from 2,256 to 2,393, and the Judicial Commissioner remarked that this increase cannot be regarded as satisfactory, in view of the decline in the number of suits disposed of.

There was a satisfactory decrease in the average duration of contested cases from 84 to 74 days, but there was an increase in the duration of uncontested cases from 46 to 49 days. As in Lower Burma, extra duties connected with the war and the influenza epidemic tended to retard the disposal of civil judicial work.

The number of miscellaneous cases for disposal in the Courts of Lower Burma was 6,223 as against 6,687 in 1917. The average duration of 55 days was the same as last year, while the number pending at the end of the year fell slightly from 786 to 763. In Upper Burma there were 1,780 miscellaneous cases, of which 1,502 were disposed of as against 1,789 in the previous year. The average duration fell from 74 to 71 days.

In Lower Burma the number of applications for execution before the Courts was 33,691 as against 37,177 in the previous year. The number pending at the end of the year was 4,621 as against 5,059. The amount realized increased slightly from Rs. 22'83 lakhs to Rs. 22'69 lakhs. A satisfactory feature was the continued decline in the number of judgment debtors imprisoned from 629 to 480 and in the number of judgment debtors arrested, but released without imprisonment, from 1,766 to 1,562. Sales of movable property fell from 1,008 to 740 and of immovable property from 1,740 to 1,702. The percentage of applications wholly or partially successful of the total disposed of, otherwise than by transfer, decreased slightly from 43'02 to 42'41.

In Upper Burma applications for execution of decrees declined from 12,744 to 11,667. The number pending at the end of the year was 2,144 as compared with 2,370 in the previous year. Realizations amounted to Rs. 5'02 lakhs as against Rs. 4'97 lakhs. Imprisonments for failure to satisfy decrees numbered 70, or 10 fewer than in 1917, and the number of persons arrested, but released without imprisonment, also fell from 682 to 632. The percentage of applications wholly or partially successful of the total disposed of, otherwise than by transfer, increased from 47'41 to 48'75.

Five hundred and twenty-eight applications under the Provincial Insolvency Act were made in Lower Burma, of which 280 came from debtors who had been arrested, 237 from debtors who had not been arrested, and 11 from creditors. The corresponding figures of the previous year were 621, 371, 235 and 15, respectively. The number disposed of fell from 635 to 536, 27 were withdrawn, 162 were dismissed, and adjudication orders were made in 347 cases, a receiver being appointed in 95 cases. In Upper Burma 201 applications were disposed of, leaving 38 pending at the close of the year, as compared with 243 and 55 respectively, in 1917. Adjudication orders were made in 132 cases, a receiver being appointed in 28 cases. Twelve applications were withdrawn and 57 were dismissed.

Appeals.

61. Consequent on the reduction in original litigation, the number of appeals preferred in District Courts of Lower Burma against decrees of Township Courts fell from 1,708 to 1,384, but there was a rise in the average duration from 53 to 57 days. The percentage of confirmation was 61'81, of modifications 7'61, of reversals 26'90 and of remands 3'67. The corresponding figures in 1917 were 60'08, 10'02, 27'25 and 2'65, respectively. The number of appeals disposed of fell from 1,736 to 1,472, and the number pending at the end of year from 247 to 159. It was again noticeable that insufficient use had been made by some Courts of the provisions of Order 41, Rule 11, regarding summary dismissal of appeals.

The number of appeals preferred in Divisional Courts fell from 365 to 349, the number disposed of from 415 to 321 and the average duration from 113 to 101 days. The percentage of confirmations was 67'60 as against 64'82, of modifications 10'28 as against 11'08, of reversals 20'87 as against 21'45 and of remands 1'25 as against 2'65.

The number of miscellaneous appeals preferred in District Courts declined from 150 to 144 and in Divisional Courts from 110 to 83. In District Courts

the number pending at the end of the year declined from 14 to 12 and in Divisional Courts from 20 to 13.

In Upper Burma the number of appeals in District Courts was 1,172 as against 1,215 last year, but the average duration increased from 86 to 88 days, and it is thought some want of method is indicated. There was, however, a satisfactory increase in the number of appeals summarily dismissed from 92 to 154. The percentage of confirmation was 63.46, of modification 6.71, of reversal 25.80 and of remand 4.04. The corresponding figures in the previous year were 60.11, 9.72, 25.92 and 4.24, respectively. The number of appeals which came before Divisional Courts was 11 as against 20 in the previous year. There was a remarkable rise from 131 to 340 days in the average duration of these appeals and explanations have been asked for. The number of miscellaneous appeals before District and Divisional Courts rose from 155 to 167, of which 139 were disposed of as against 123.

The appellate work of the Chief Court of Lower Burma and of the Court of the Judicial Commissioner, Upper Burma, is described in the next two paragraphs which deal with these Courts.

62. During the year of report Judges of the Chief Court sitting singly disposed of 417 original suits, 318 applications for execution of decrees and 210 miscellaneous cases. On the appellate side, single Judges dealt with 12 regular first appeals, 308 second appeals, 192 revisions and 18 miscellaneous applications. Benches of two Judges disposed of 154 regular and 56 miscellaneous first appeals, 2 revisions and 19 miscellaneous applications. A full Bench of three Judges dealt with 3 civil references under section 17 of the Indian Divorce Act and a full Bench of four Judges with 2 civil references under the Lower Burma Courts Act.

The Chief
Court of
Lower
Burma.

The number of suits instituted during the year was 400 as against 369 in the previous year, while their aggregate value fell from Rs. 69.63 lakhs to Rs. 46.65 lakhs. Although only one Judge sat on the Original Side of the Court during eight months of the year, the number of suits disposed of increased from 354 to 417. The average duration of contested cases fell from 417 to 258 days, while that of uncontested cases rose slightly from 193 to 219 days. Of the suits disposed of, 35.97 per cent. were contested as compared with 40.68 per cent. in 1917. The number of sales of immovable property fell from 41 to 22, but the amount realised rose from Rs. 6.87 lakhs to Rs. 7.41 lakhs. The number of cases disposed of under the Presidency Towns Insolvency Act was 196 as against 204 in 1917; the number remaining pending at the end of the year fell from 140 to 120. Five persons were adjudicated insolvents on the application of creditors and 197 persons on their own application. Debtors were granted their discharge in 120 cases and in 71 cases the application for discharge was dismissed or the adjudication order was annulled. The miscellaneous business consisted of 22 applications for probate, 96 applications for letters-of-administration, 25 cases under the Guardian and Wards Act and 41 cases under other Acts in addition to 36 applications under the Code of Civil Procedure.

The number of regular appeals instituted declined from 419 to 334, while the number disposed of increased from 354 to 474, with the result that the number pending at the end of the year fell from 360 to 220. Of the appeals instituted, 100 were against original decrees and 234 against appellate decrees as compared with 127 and 292 in 1917. The average duration of first appeals declined from 384 to 340 days and that of second appeals also declined from 239 to 222 days. The improvement in the disposal of appellate work is due to the fact that four Judges were available for the hearing of appeals throughout the year. There were 79 miscellaneous appeals, of which 56 were disposed of, with an average duration of 191 days, and 23 remained pending at the close of the year. The decrees of lower courts and of the original side of the Chief Court were confirmed in 67.30, reversed in 24.26, modified in 6.96 and remanded in 1.48 per cent. of appeals disposed of, figures which do not differ materially from those of 1917. Of the total number of appeals dealt with, 15.75 per cent., as against 16.70 per cent., were summarily dismissed. The number of revisions disposed

CHAP. III.— of fell from 205 to 194, but the percentage of confirmation rose from 77.60 to 81.96. There were 14 appeals before the Privy Council, of which two were decided, leaving 12 pending.

The Court
of the
Judicial
Commissioner,
Upper
Burma.

63. Three hundred and sixty-seven appeals, or 49 less than in 1917, were preferred to the Court of the Judicial Commissioner. Of these, appeals from original decrees numbered 88 and from appellate decrees 279. The number of appeals disposed of fell from 446 to 384 and the number pending at the end of the year also fell from 213 to 196. The Additional Judge dealt with 40 per cent. as against 45 per cent. of the appellate work, the decrease being due to his temporary absence on privilege leave and on deputation. The average duration in first appeals was 276 and in second appeals 157 as compared with 245 and 241 days in 1917. The percentage of confirmation dropped slightly from 66.37 to 62.50 per cent. The number of applications in revision fell from 432 to 348, the number disposed of from 331 to 252 and the number pending at the close of the year from 101 to 96. The Court also disposed of 85 miscellaneous appeals and applications, or 22 more than in 1917.

General.

64. The number of inspections of Courts was, on the whole, satisfactory in Lower Burma, but was inadequate in Upper Burma. In Lower Burma, 1 advocate of the Chief Court, 3 first grade pleaders, 8 second grade pleaders and 10 third grade pleaders were admitted, and the certificates of 20 first grade, 116 second grade and 407 third grade pleaders were renewed during the year. In Upper Burma the number of advocates' cases fell from 112 to 110, of which 43 were concerned with admission or promotion, 29 with renewals of licenses, 2 with complaints of misconduct, and the balance with reports of death or transfer. The Court-house accommodation in both Upper and Lower Burma stands in urgent need of improvement, but the enormous building programme with which the Province is faced militates against a very early settlement of this question. Cases of particular urgency will, as far as possible, continue to be disposed of as they arise.

Registration.

General.

65. No changes were made during the year in the Law, Rules and Directions relating to registration. Two new sub-registrars' offices were opened during the year at Zigôn in the Tharrawaddy District and at Labutta in the Myaungmya District.

Deeds
registered.

66. The total number of compulsory registrations affecting immovable property declined further from 60,514 to 57,828, and is the lowest recorded since 1912. On the other hand, the aggregate value increased by 14½ per cent. from Rs. 7,24,58,472 to Rs. 8,29,81,710, a figure which was only exceeded in 1916. Instruments of sale or exchange of immovable property of the value of Rs. 100 and upwards also declined in number from 25,880 to 25,115 and increased in value from Rs. 3,60 lakhs to Rs. 4,73 lakhs. Very considerable increases in value were recorded in Rangoon Town (51 lakhs), Myaungmya (34½ lakhs) and Pegu (33 lakhs) and a very considerable decrease in Tavoy (26½ lakhs). In Rangoon Town the increase, both in number and in value, is ascribed to purchases of immovable property by dealers in piece-goods and hardware, who had made large war profits. Outside Rangoon the general increase is ascribed to the conversion of mortgages into sales and the pressure of money-lenders on the owners of better class land, owing to the low course of paddy prices. The decrease in Tavoy is due to the more stable condition of the mining industry, consequent upon the advent of large firms, which have sunk considerable capital in the industry and will not part with their interests lightly.

Instruments of mortgage declined in number from 31,016 to 29,131, but, for the first time since 1914, there was a slight increase in value from Rs. 2,72 lakhs to Rs. 2,75 lakhs. The influence of the war, as evidenced by scarcity of money, the failure of the paddy market and the reluctance of money-lenders to make

loans on the security of agricultural land, save at very high rates of interest, sufficiently accounts for the decrease in the number of mortgages. In the Kyaukse District an increase of 46 per cent. in the number of mortgages is attributable to the activity of Co-operative Credit Societies, whose transactions represent about two-thirds of the total. CHAP. III.—
PROTECTOR.

Optional registrations of instruments concerning immovable property fell in number from 194 to 156, but there was a marked increase in value from Rs. 2.76 lakhs to Rs. 4.38 lakhs. Registrations of instruments concerning movable property increased in number from 7,844 to 7,964 and in value from Rs. 80.92 lakhs to Rs. 85.47 lakhs.

67. Income and expenditure remained practically stationary, the former increasing by Rs. 1,694 to Rs. 2,08,899 and the latter by Rs. 319 to Rs. 1,13,882. Expenditure was 54.5 per cent. of income as compared with 54.8 per cent. in 1917 and 47.2 per cent. in 1916, and in six districts expenditure exceeded income. Special sub-registrars were appointed during the year at Zigon, Tharrawaddy District, and at Twante, Hanthawaddy District, the number of such officers being thus raised to 43. Income and
expenditure.

Joint Stock Companies.

68. One hundred and twenty-six joint stock companies, with an aggregate authorised capital of Rs. 11.58 lakhs, were working at the end of the year, showing an increase of 13 companies and Rs. 1.39 lakhs of capital. Fifteen new joint stock companies limited by shares were registered during the year, with a total authorised capital of Rs. 1.45 lakhs, as against 9 companies with a total authorised capital of Rs. 32 lakhs last year. The heavy increase of capital over the previous year's figures is due to two enemy properties being taken over by British companies, with a capital of Rs. 45 lakhs each, and two others with a capital of Rs. 15 lakhs each. The number of companies, which increased their capital, rose from 12 to 19, the extent of the increase being approximately Rs. 97 lakhs. One company reduced its paid-up capital during the year and two companies with a paid-up capital of Rs. 10½ lakhs wound up their business. Three companies established outside British India filed their papers under section 277 of the Act as compared with four such companies in 1917, while four enemy companies were removed from the register. The total number of companies now registered is 137. The fees realised during the year amounted to Rs. 7,159 as against Rs. 3,809 last year. Four societies were registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 during the year, bringing the total up to 47. The cost of the separate establishment for dealing with joint stock companies was Rs. 864 as in the previous year.

Of the new joint stock companies registered during the year, 2 were for mining, 2 for rice milling, 2 for planting, 2 for printing and the balance for miscellaneous trading purposes.

Local Boards Administration.

69. There are at present no local boards in Burma, but during the year some progress was made with plans for their institution, as they form an integral part of the proposed scheme of constitutional reform for the Province. At present the District Funds in Upper Burma and the District Cess Funds in Lower Burma are administered by the Deputy Commissioners of the districts to which they belong. Some account of their receipts and expenditure is given in Chapter V of this Report.

Municipal Administration.

70. A general election of members of the Rangoon Municipal Committee was held in November 1918, but contests were confined to the seven seats tenable by representatives of the Hindu and European and allied communities Rangoon
Municipality.

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PROTEC-
TION.

There were no contests for the nine seats allotted to the Mahomedan, Chinese and Burmese communities, and in the case of the last mentioned community the Local Government had to exercise its power of nomination in respect of one seat, as no candidate was forthcoming. The ordinary income of the municipality rose from Rs. 46.31 lakhs to Rs. 48.92 lakhs, the increase being mainly due to enhanced receipts from rates and taxes, pawnshop license fees and interest on sinking fund investments. The incidence of taxation and income per head of population rose from Rs. 12-0-3 to Rs. 12-2-1 and from Rs. 16-4-1 to Rs. 17-2-4, respectively. No new tax was proposed or sanctioned during the year, and the question of imposing a terminal tax on certain classes of goods in order to raise revenue for the Municipality was still before the Local Government. During the year 775 new properties, including two factories, were assessed to taxation, and the assessment of 140 properties including 7 factories were revised. The number of properties separately assessed to taxation rose from 16,409 to 16,794. The total monthly assessed value of all buildings and lands within the Municipality, other than Government, Port Trust and Railway properties, rose from Rs. 11.77 lakhs to Rs. 12.06 lakhs and the gross demand for municipal taxes thereon from Rs. 29.35 lakhs to Rs. 29.81 lakhs. The contribution received from Government on account of Municipal taxes on Government lands and buildings was Rs. 2.24 lakhs, as compared with Rs. 2.21 lakhs in the previous year. The present agreement, whereby Government pays a yearly contribution in lieu of municipal taxes calculated at the rate of 7½ per cent. on the total sum derived annually as taxes from private lands and buildings in Rangoon, will expire on the 31st March 1920 and the future basis of taxation is under consideration. The amount received from the Port Trust, calculated on the basis of 4 per cent. of its ordinary revenue, declined from Rs. 1.58 lakhs to Rs. 1.39 lakhs, but the assessed demand on Railway property increased slightly from Rs. 1.30 lakhs to Rs. 1.31 lakhs. A controversy between the Municipality and the Railway Company, as to the liability of three plots of land to be assessed to scavenging tax, was finally settled during the year by the Chief Court, the decision being in favour of the Municipality in respect of one plot, which was used as a store yard, and against it as regards the remaining two, which were unused. The revenue derived from municipal rates and taxes increased from Rs. 34.25 lakhs to Rs. 34.56 lakhs, partly on account of the expansion of the town and partly on account of revision of assessments. Under other heads of income there were large increases of Rs. 80,095, due to the extension of night stalls and to a revision of rents for encroachment on municipal land, of Rs. 55,772 on account of increased competition for pawnshop licenses and of Rs. 40,500 due to the growth of the sinking fund and to investments at higher rates of interest. The ordinary expenditure rose from Rs. 36.81 lakhs to Rs. 38.51 lakhs, more money being spent on water supply, drainage works and vernacular education, and less on roads and conservancy. The municipal fund had at the end of the year a credit balance of Rs. 2.12 lakhs, in spite of advances aggregating Rs. 24 lakhs having been made from revenue to meet the cost of various capital works pending the raising of loans.

The fire brigade attended 53 fires during the year and rendered effective assistance in the extinction of 23 fires. The total loss was unusually heavy and aggregated Rs. 26 lakhs as compared with a normal average of a little over Rs. 5 lakhs. The principal losses, however, occurred either on the river itself or on the river bank opposite the town or on the outskirts of the town, all of which places are out of reach of assistance from the brigade as at present equipped. The burning of three rice mills was responsible for the greater part of the heavy loss incurred. The provision of additional equipment, including a motor fire float, for the better protection of property on the river and its banks, is engaging the attention of the Municipal Committee. The cost of upkeep of the brigade fell from Rs. 74,512 to Rs. 71,731. The new agreement for the lighting of the town by the Rangoon Electric Tramway and Supply Company came into effect on the 1st January 1919 and some progress was made with the replacement of carbon by metallic filament lamps. Additional electric lamps were installed in certain areas and the number of oil lamps maintained by the municipality was increased by 61 to

860. The cost of electric lighting during the year was Rs. 1,78,584 and of oil lighting Rs. 28,894 as compared with Rs. 1,74,842 and Rs. 28,571, respectively, in the previous year. CHARGES FOR PROVISIONS.

There was no interruption of the main water supply of the town from the Hlawga reservoir. The average quantity supplied per day to an estimated population of 200,000 rose from twelve to fourteen million gallons, giving evidence of very considerable wastage. In addition to the supply from Hlawga, over 25 million gallons from the tube well at Ahlone were distributed through stand pipes in the streets. During March and April water was supplied free of charge by means of two water boats to those inhabitants of the Dalla quarter who wished to take it; the quantity so taken was about 2,500 gallons per day, and the cost to the municipality was Rs. 15-12-0 per thousand gallons. The pumping engines at Yegu worked satisfactorily throughout the year. To economise fuel the pumps were stopped for nine hours daily during the rains, the supply during these hours being by gravitation only, but, owing to the possibility of insufficient pressure in the event of fire, it was decided not to continue this practice during the dry weather. The water-tax fund closed with a debit balance of Rs. 37-11 lakhs, but during the year of report ordinary receipts were Rs. 1-08 lakhs in excess of ordinary expenditure.

The work of altering the connections and manholes in the sewers laid in certain back drainage spaces, preparatory to paving them, was continued. War conditions rendered impossible any extension of the sewerage system. Outside the sewered area the practice of removing bath water by municipal agency was discontinued and notice was served on householders to make their own arrangements for its disposal. Except for a burst in one 9-inch sewer, which had to be renewed for the greater part of its length, the sewage mains gave no trouble and the ejectors worked efficiently.

A new Municipal market was opened in Yegyaw in a cheap structure of a temporary nature, which was fully occupied. Attention continued to be paid to the weights and scales used in the markets and several persons were prosecuted for using false weights. The total receipts from Municipal markets increased slightly to Rs. 2-76 lakhs.

Altogether 102,237 animals, excluding pigs, were slaughtered during the year, and the revenue of Rs. 1-40 lakhs derived from slaughtering and lairage fees was the highest on record. The total number of pigs slaughtered was 22,708 and the revenue obtained from this source was Rs. 27,621, both figures being much the same as in the previous year. Action was taken to control the illicit slaughter and sale of goats with good results. Though the number of animals that passed through the cattle market fell from 93,704 to 74,980, the revenue from the market rose slightly from Rs. 13,192 to Rs. 13,333. The reclamation of an area of 2 acres immediately adjoining the market was completed. The number of animals impounded rose from 9,171 to 10,427. Except for one or two isolated cases, the Municipality was free from glanders, but there were 12 cases of anthrax and 629 cases of rinderpest during the year.

No new roads were constructed, and the ordinary maintenance and repair programme had to be considerably curtailed, owing to a shortage of railway waggons available for the transport of stone metal, and also owing to a shortage of labour caused by the influenza epidemic. The programme was further interfered with by the operations of the Munitions Board, whose heavy timber traffic over certain roads in East Rangoon caused such damage as to necessitate the diversion of material originally intended for the repair of other roads. The creation of a separate appointment of Roads Engineer was sanctioned during the year. The expenditure on roads rose from Rs. 2-92 lakhs to Rs. 3-07 lakhs, while that on street watering fell from Rs. 66,240 to Rs. 63,400.

There was considerably less activity in the Building Department than in the previous year, and the number of applications for erection or re-erection fell from 1,895 to 984. The number of prosecutions for infringement of the building bye-laws also fell from 2,118 to 1,117. The new buildings erected in the course of the year included 70 masonry buildings, 202 plank buildings and 158 mat buildings.

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PROTEC-
TION.

The public parks and gardens were kept in good order and the cutting and trimming of roadside and other trees was continued.

Excluding the loans aggregating Rs. 60.50 lakhs raised by the Municipal Committee on behalf of the Rangoon Town Lands Reclamation Fund, the indebtedness of the Committee at the end of the year of report was Rs. 130.58 lakhs as compared with Rs. 131.16 lakhs at the end of the previous year. Large investments of sinking funds were made in war loans and the year closed with a credit balance of Rs. 2.12 lakhs, notwithstanding that a sum of Rs. 4.85 lakhs was advanced from revenue to meet capital expenditure incurred during the year. Owing to the depreciation of Government securities, there was a deficit of Rs. 5.31 lakhs in the sinking funds formed for the repayment of the various Municipal and Reclamation Fund Loans. It is anticipated, however, that the value of Government paper will to some extent improve and the higher rate of interest earned by present and future investments will also help to meet the deficiency. In view of the uncertainty as to the future course of prices, the Municipal Committee decided to make full provision for loans due for repayment between 1920 and 1923, and to defer consideration of the deficiencies in the sinking funds of loans due for repayment in 1927 and later years, till more experience of *post bellum* conditions has been obtained. The Provident and Fire Insurance Funds were in a sound financial condition and at the end of the year held investments in Government, Municipal and Port Trust paper of Rs. 7.38 lakhs and Rs. 6.40 lakhs, respectively.

Amendments were made in the by-laws and rules regulating elections, slaughter-houses, the keeping of wild and dangerous animals, the grant of leave to officers after attaining the age of 55 and the occupation of registered buildings. New bye-laws came into force dealing with the management of Christian cemeteries, the protection from injury of the pavement in back drainage spaces and the refund of license fees paid by owners of motor omnibuses, hack-carts and other vehicles plying for hire. Revised bye-laws for the management of the Municipal Provident Fund were sanctioned by the Local Government, but, owing to lack of funds, it was not found possible to enforce the bye-laws regulating dairies and the sale of milk.

The number of taxicabs increased by 2 to 58 and the receipts from this source amounted to Rs. 3,500. The number of licenses issued to bullock carts increased from 1,593 to 1,686 and to hand carts from 1,285 to 1,343 and the license fees increased from Rs. 50,205 to Rs. 52,265.

The population of Rangoon was 293,316 in 1911 and was estimated at 323,157 in the middle of 1918. As compared with 1917 the number of births fell from 6,372 to 6,220 and the birth rate (per 1,000 of estimated population) from 20.04 to 19.31. The number of deaths, on the other hand, increased very largely from 9,885 to 15,411 and the death rate (per 1,000 of the population at the time of the census) from 33.70 to 52.54. The number of infants who died before attaining the age of one year was 2,248, giving an infantile mortality rate of 329.26 as compared with 1,827 deaths and a mortality rate of 286.72 in the previous year. The rate was highest amongst Hindus and Mahomedans, and lowest amongst Europeans and Anglo-Indians. The number of cases of plague increased from 1,378 to 1,776 and the number of deaths from 1,288 to 1,668. As in the previous year the age mainly affected was between 20 and 30 and the Hindus suffered most. The number of persons inoculated against plague fell from 5,166 to 4,486, of whom 4,354 were inoculated by the jail authorities. The plague staff destroyed 330,924 rats as against 410,052 in the previous year. There were 99 cases of cholera and 74 deaths as compared with 76 cases and 49 deaths in 1917. It is not possible to give the number of persons attacked by influenza, but between July and December 1918 there were 3,699 deaths from this cause and there can be little doubt that influenza was also responsible for a considerable number of the 1,162 deaths attributed to pneumonia and other respiratory diseases during the same period. The measures taken to cope with the outbreak are described in Chapter VI of this Report and it is only necessary to mention here that the Municipality, besides equipping two temporary hospitals, also made a free distribution of medicine to 4,947 persons from various depôts. The poorer classes were mainly affected and the disease was in many

cases complicated by a virulent type of pneumonia. The number of cases of small-pox rose from 171 to 297, and the number of deaths from 18 to 95. The number of deaths from enteric fever fell from 39 to 23, but deaths due to malaria increased from 271 to 392, to dysentery and diarrhoea from 976 to 1,067; to tubercle from 709 to 780; and to beri-beri from 84 to 119. There were five deaths from cerebro-spinal meningitis during the year. The number of vaccinations performed increased very considerably from 29,494 to 53,050, including 6,055 performed on passengers arriving by sea. Of the total number of vaccinations performed, 14,109 were primary vaccinations, of which 99·96 per cent. were successful, and 38,941 were re-vaccinations, of which 66·65 per cent. were successful.

Chief, Minor
Municipalities
1919-20.

71. The number of municipalities was 44 as in the previous year. Nearly all have the power to elect their own presidents. The boundaries of the Thonab Municipality were revised so as to exclude an area of ·05 square mile.

Chief, Minor
Municipalities
1919-20.

While the constitution of Municipal Committees remained practically the same as in the previous year, the office of the Vice-President in several municipalities was held by non-official members, and there were non-official Presidents at Kyaukpyu, Syriam and Insein, the committee of the first and the last named municipality now consisting of purely non-official members. The numbers of official and non-official members were 192 and 371 as compared with 199 and 363, respectively, in the previous year. Out of 869 meetings held during the year, six proved abortive for want of quorum, there were three such only in the previous year. Proposals for the introduction of municipal reform have now been received and are being carefully considered by the Local Government.

Expenditure on "Public safety" rose from Rs. 2·94 lakhs to Rs. 3·05 lakhs. As in the previous year, most of the municipalities enjoyed immunity from fire. There was, however, a destructive fire at Mergui, where one whole quarter of the town consisting of 132 houses was burnt down and the damage was estimated at Rs. 3 lakhs. The Mandalay Fire Brigade attended 20 fires, which destroyed 100 houses valued approximately at Rs. 57,000. There were also three fires at Akyab, which destroyed 19 houses valued at Rs. 6,800, and two at Prome, where 156 houses, mostly of *theké* and bamboo, were destroyed. The Moulmein Fire Brigade attended 11 fires as in the previous year. Out of the total expenditure of Rs. 3·05 lakhs, a sum of Rs. 2·67 lakhs was spent on lighting and Rs. 38,467 under the head "Fire (Establishment, purchase of fire engines, buckets, repairs, etc.)"

There was no capital outlay on water-works during the year, except a small sum of Rs. 2,080 at Prome, and Rs. 1,000 at Bassein. Charges on account of establishment, repairs, etc., in connection with water-supply fell slightly from Rs. 1,24,284 to Rs. 1,17,596.

No capital expenditure was incurred in connection with drainage works, except at Prome, where the sum spent amounted to Rs. 16,148 only. Charges on account of establishment, repairs, etc., amounted to Rs. 30,555 as compared with Rs. 40,194 in the previous year. The total expenditure on conservancy fell slightly from Rs. 8·56 lakhs to Rs. 8·40 lakhs. The small capital expenditure incurred during the year, both under "Water-supply" and "Drainage" is accounted for by the fact that some difficulty is still being experienced in obtaining pipes, etc., for water-works. As prices fall to their normal level and materials become more readily obtainable, it is expected that the programme of works will be fairly extensive in the next and succeeding years under these heads. A sum of Rs. 4,59,500 was expended on the acquisition of an insanitary area on the Mergui foreshore, which had been devastated by fire and which it is proposed to lay out on sanitary lines.

Expenditure under "Hospitals and Dispensaries" declined from Rs. 7·52 lakhs to Rs. 6·78 lakhs, owing chiefly to completion of the works under construction at Toungoo and Tavoy and to the purchase of land and building at Akyab for the extension of the hospital buildings in the previous year. A grant of Rs. 30,000 from Provincial Funds was made to the Kyaukpyu Municipality for the erection of a new dispensary and out-houses.

CHAP. III—
FINANCE
AND
TAXATION.

Expenditure on education rose from Rs. 1,83,348 to Rs. 2,73,663, showing an increase of Rs. 90,315, nearly three-fourths of which were contributed by the municipalities in Upper Burma and the remainder from the Moumein Municipality in Lower Burma, which had paid little or nothing towards education in the past. The increases are most noticeable in the Sagaing and Meiktila Divisions, where the expenditure amounted to Rs. 19,365 and Rs. 18,656 during the year of report against Rs. 768 and Rs. 50 in the previous year.

The number of notified areas, i.e. areas in which certain provisions only of the Municipal Act are in force, remained the same as in the previous year, viz. 22. There was no alteration of boundaries of any of the notified areas during the year. The total income of these areas, excluding opening balances amounting to Rs. 4.68 lakhs and extraordinary receipts amounting to Rs. 0.24 lakh, rose from Rs. 8.70 lakhs to Rs. 9.50 lakhs. The incidence of taxation varied from Rs. 9.5-9 at Maymyo to Rs. 0.4-0 at Myitngè, both in the Mandalay District. The average incidence for all the notified areas rose slightly from Rs. 2.3-5 to Rs. 2.8-9.

The year 1918-19 was a most unhealthy year, as practically all municipalities reported an increase of death rate. The excess mortality was chiefly due to the influenza epidemic, which first appeared in Rangoon and spread rapidly throughout the Province. The towns which suffered most severely from this disease were Mandalay, where 817 deaths were recorded between August 1918 and March 1919; Prome, where 384 deaths occurred within the short period from September to December and Akyab, where there were 332 deaths. The disease visited nearly all other towns, though the mortality was not so high as at the three places mentioned. Several municipalities omit to report the number of deaths from influenza, but from the abnormally high figures shown under the head "Fever", it may safely be assumed that influenza was responsible for a very large proportion of deaths under this head. Serious outbreaks of plague are reported from four municipalities in Lower Burma and two municipalities in Upper Burma. The heaviest mortality was at Prome, where there were 449 deaths. Thonzè and Bassein recorded 200 and 284 deaths, respectively, while at Kyaikto and Minbu there were 136 and 106 deaths. The number of deaths at Mandalay fell from 2,429 in the previous year to 260 in the year of report. Twelve municipalities in Lower Burma and two municipalities in Upper Burma were free from the infection. Akyab, Paungdè and Henzada suffered badly from cholera, though at the first named place the disease was confined mainly to the coolie classes. The number of deaths at these places were 130, 105 and 126, respectively. Cholera was prevalent in most of the municipalities in the Irrawaddy Division and in a few of the municipalities in the Tenasserim Division. Municipalities in the Magwe Division were free from this disease. Mandalay recorded 99 deaths from cholera. Serious outbreaks of small-pox occurred only at Mandalay and Myingyan, where the deaths were 372 and 240. Among the notified areas there were more or less serious outbreaks of plague at Minhla (47 deaths), Meiktila (47 deaths) and Shwedaung (34 deaths). Plague broke out for the first time at Kalaw, but owing to the prompt and energetic measures taken to combat it, the disease was stamped out. Eleven died out of the 19 persons attacked.

Marine.

Light-houses
and light-
ships.

72. The light-ships "Danidaw" stationed at the Baragua Flats and "Kalagauk" at the Krishna Shoal were towed in turn into Rangoon by the R.I.M.S. "Mayo" for their annual overhaul and repairs. During their stay in Rangoon the relief light-vessel "Martaban" took their places. The Eastern Grove light was shut down on the 1st March 1919 for repairs, and re-exhibited on the 9th April. In the interval, a temporary fixed light took its place. The Spit light-vessel "Kemmdine" was relieved by the relief light-vessel "Martaban" for her annual repairs and overhaul. The R.I.M.S. "Mayo" was the station vessel during the year and carried out all reliefs in connection with light-houses and light-ships. Owing to the irregular

steamer service to Akyab, advantage was taken of her visits to that port to ship Public Works Department stores, specie and goods on behalf of other Government departments. She was also employed in the transport of troops to and from Port Blair and in escorting mine-sweeping vessels to Calcutta on the conclusion of their service. There were no deaths at any of the light-houses, and the health of the light-keepers, both European and Indian, and of the crews of the light-ships was good throughout the year. The total expenditure on light-houses and light-ships fell from Rs. 2.97 lakhs to Rs. 2.61 lakhs; the expenditure on repairs to light-houses by the Public Works Department fell by Rs. 40,261, that on oil fell considerably from Rs. 6,174 to Rs. 260, that on blue light composition from Rs. 4,114 to Rs. 45 and that on provisions by Rs. 12,599, while the expenditure on stores and contingencies rose from Rs. 16,846 to Rs. 44,089. The receipts from coast-light dues rose from Rs. 3.17 lakhs to Rs. 3.44 lakhs in the year of report. These amounts do not include the annual contribution of Rs. 4,200 paid by the Port Commissioners, Rangoon, towards the Spit light-vessel. The annual *pro forma* account of the Burma coast-light dues showed a loss of Rs. 1,59,456 on the year's working—a result better by Rs. 5,938 than that of the previous year.

Call. III-
Paotho
tion.

73 The revenue account of the Commissioners of the Port of Rangoon closed at the end of the year with a surplus of Rs. 6.96 lakhs as compared with a deficit of Rs. 1.30 lakhs in the previous year. Though payments, including contributions to reserve funds, rose from Rs. 42.75 lakhs to Rs. 45.31 lakhs, this was more than counterbalanced by an increase in receipts from Rs. 41.45 lakhs to Rs. 52.27 lakhs. The increase in revenue was mainly due to an increase in the export trade, and especially to the shipment of large quantities of timber and other commodities over the wharves on Government account. The war surcharge also brought in a revenue of Rs. 3.43 lakhs as compared with Rs. 0.36 lakh in the previous year. The increase in payments as compared with 1917-18 was mainly due to the general increase in the cost of all maintenance and repairs, coal and stores. No new works were undertaken during the year and no loans were raised. The total of loan indebtedness was the same as last year, namely Rs. 298.62 lakhs, and the securities, valued at cost price, at the credit of the different sinking funds, rose from Rs. 57.11 lakhs to Rs. 65.49 lakhs. During the year a sum of Rs. 75,000 was placed to the credit of the revenue reserve fund, a similar amount was added to the fire and marine insurance fund, and Rs. 1,25,000 to the depreciation and replacement fund. The total amount at the credit of the various reserve funds now stands at Rs. 43.35 lakhs as compared with Rs. 38.62 lakhs last year.

Port
Administra-
tion,
Rangoon.

The Customs returns showed that 87.07 per cent. of the foreign and coasting trade of the Province passed through Rangoon; of the imports 60.7 per cent. were landed on, and of the exports 18.2 per cent. were shipped from the premises of the Commissioners, and the rest passed through private premises or were discharged into, or landed from inland vessels; the corresponding figures of the previous year were 85.71, 58.6 and 15.1. The inland (river borne) trade, which passed over the premises of the Commissioners, rose from 664,770 tons to 750,895 tons. The revenue of the traffic department increased from Rs. 21.16 lakhs to Rs. 28.04 lakhs, the latter figure including a war surcharge amounting to Rs. 2.80 lakhs. There was a slight increase in the receipts of the port department from Rs. 7.72 lakhs to Rs. 8.45 lakhs, the war surcharge of Rs. 0.63 lakh being responsible for the greater part of this. There was a substantial increase in the revenue from river dues from Rs. 12.18 lakhs to Rs. 15.34 lakhs. The number of berths available for sea-going ships remained the same as in the previous year and in only one case was it found impossible to berth a ship immediately on arrival. The cargo landed on the Commissioner's wharves and pontoons, directly or by lighters, from sea-going vessels amounted to 363,017 tons against 327,991 tons in the previous year. The tonnage of goods landed from vessels arriving from European and other ports outside Asia declined by 16 per cent., while that from Asiatic ports increased by 16 per cent. The cargo shipped direct into sea-going vessels increased from 78,664 tons to 144,321 tons. The number of passengers, excluding troops, to or from ports outside Burma, who passed over the wharves and

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TION.

pontoons of the Commissioners, increased considerably from 423,699 in 1917 to 444,418 in 1918. At the close of the year the number of godowns let or available for letting was 164, with a floor area of 640,517 square feet, as compared with 166 godowns, with a floor area of 639,441 square feet, at the end of the previous year. Traffic over the Commissioners' sidings increased by 53 per cent. from 279,310 tons to 427,819 tons.

No new engineering work of any magnitude was undertaken during the year, but the usual maintenance and repairs were carried out efficiently and economically.

The upper river training wall continued to act satisfactorily, and the average sinkage since April 1914, when the first set of through levels was taken, was 0'643 feet. The settlement of the apron continued. It is estimated that 484,707 tons of silt were deposited during the year in the embayment behind the wall, and vegetation is increasing and spreading over the silted area towards the right bank of the river. The bund for the training of the Kanoungto creek was completed, and the average sinkage since completion was 2'46 feet.

The number of steamers, excluding Government vessels, which arrived in the port, rose from 914 of 1,744,936 net registered tonnage to 1,038 of 1,990,472 tons. Four hundred and eighty-two sailing vessels of a total tonnage of 41,140 entered the port during the year as compared with 223 vessels of a total tonnage of 30,918 tons in 1917-18. The number of cargo boats and passenger and cargo sampans licensed during the year rose from 776 and 5,259 to 964 and 5,608, respectively.

Consideration of the proposal to provide a dry dock for Rangoon was deferred till the budget meeting of the Commissioners to be held in 1920. The Commissioners declared themselves willing to co-operate in providing cold storage accommodation, when and as such facilities are required. The Commissioners made sundry recommendations to the Local Government, with a view to the acquisition of additional areas of foreshore within the limits of the port, but it was decided to suspend further action pending the creation of the Rangoon Development Trust. The mooring area for vessels loading dangerous petroleum and benzene was altered and extended during the year, in consequence of the burning and sinking of the Burmah Oil Company's steamer "Ayuthia." A general scheme for protection from erosion of the river banks below the Hastings shoal, at an estimated cost of Rs. 31 lakhs, was approved by the Commissioners, who agreed that this work should be taken in hand as soon as the financial position permits.

Port
Service :
Rangoon.

74. The Rangoon Pilot Fund opened with a debit balance of Rs. 10,357. Ordinary receipts during the year rose from Rs. 2,90,800 to Rs. 3,69,358, and the expenditure from Rs. 2,92,177 to Rs. 3,57,403, yielding a surplus of Rs. 11,955 on the year's working, and thus resulting in a credit balance of Rs. 1,598. The actual closing balance, after taking into account extraordinary receipts and expenditure, was Rs. 19,138. In order to improve the financial stability of the fund, revised rates of pilotage fees were sanctioned from the 1st June 1919. No contribution was set aside for the Pilot Vessels' Depreciation Fund, but, owing to interest on investments, the balance at the credit of this fund (including investments at cost) rose from Rs. 2'17 lakhs to Rs. 2'25 lakhs. Excluding miscellaneous receipts, the gross pilotage fees rose from Rs. 2'90 lakhs to Rs. 3'63 lakhs, and the payments to pilots rose from Rs. 1'97 lakhs to Rs. 2'59 lakhs. The pilot service was well maintained during the year. There were 32 delays at the pilot station, as compared with only nine in the previous year, due in 12 cases to the arrival of vessels before the advised date, in six cases to vessels arriving unadvised and in 14 cases to all the pilots being engaged.

Minor ports.

75. Besides Rangoon, there are six ports in the Province : Akyab, Kyaukpyu Bassein, Moulmein, Mergui and Tavoy, in which Port Funds are maintained. The total receipts and expenditure of these funds rose from Rs. 3'95 lakhs to Rs. 4'40 lakhs and from Rs. 3'63 lakhs to Rs. 4'18 lakhs, respectively, in the year

of report. There was an increase of receipts in all funds except Tavoy and an increase of expenditure in all except Mergui. In Moulmein and Akyab the expenditure during the year exceeded the receipts and consequently the closing balances were less than in the previous year by Rs. 11,249 and Rs. 11,732, respectively. At the end of the year the Moulmein and Tavoy Port Funds owed the Local Government Rs. 45,767 and Rs. 51,804, respectively.

Besides Rangoon, there are pilot funds at Akyab, Bassein and Moulmein. These funds derive their income from pilotage fees, and the expenditure consists mainly of the cost of maintenance of pilot vessels and payments to pilots. The aggregate receipts of the three pilot funds rose from Rs. 0.90 lakh to Rs. 0.95 lakh. The closing balances of the Akyab and Moulmein Pilot Funds showed an increase, while in Bassein, the expenditure exceeded the receipts, causing a corresponding reduction in the closing balance.

76. Repeated voyages are counted in the statistics given in this paragraph and coasting trade means trade with Indian ports, whether British or not. The number of vessels entering ports in Burma increased from 5,905 to 7,160 and their aggregate tonnage from 2,289,022 tons to 3,701,928. The number of vessels clearing from ports in Burma rose further from 5,662 to 6,701 and their aggregate tonnage from 2,304,087 tons to 2,688,877, i.e., slightly less than the figure for 1915, viz. 2,707,365 tons. These figures show a rise in tonnage, due to the gradual resumption of normal conditions consequent on the termination of the war.

CHAP. III.—
PORTS.
TONNAGE.
Commercial
marine
shipping.

The number of vessels employed in foreign trade, which entered the ports of Burma, rose from 637 to 799 and their tonnage from 895,672 tons to 1,050,574, and the number which cleared rose from 709 to 937 and their tonnage from 980,446 tons to 1,213,546. Of the former, sailing ships numbered 229 of 24,641 tons and of the latter 315 of 38,126 tons. Corresponding figures for the previous year were 169 of 31,053 tons and 218 of 32,176 tons, respectively. The number of vessels which entered Rangoon from foreign ports rose again from 382 to 489 and their tonnage from 751,798 tons to 880,357, and the number which cleared rose further from 401 to 521 and their tonnage from 826,452 tons to 1,013,218, the highest figures for the past five years. Of the former, sailing ships numbered 47 of 7,701 tons and of the latter 35 of 7,732 tons, respectively. These figures show a decrease of 9,418 and 6,428 tons, respectively, indicating that steam-vessels are rapidly resuming their place in foreign trade.

The number of vessels engaged in the coasting trade, which entered the ports of the Province, rose from 5,268 to 6,361 and their tonnage from 1,393,350 tons to 1,651,354, and the number which cleared rose from 4,953 to 5,764 and their tonnage from 1,323,641 tons to 1,475,331. Of the former, sailing ships numbered 5,329 of 199,634 tons and of the latter 4,788 of 167,519 tons. The figures for the previous year were 4,347 of 133,190 tons and 4,051 of 127,861 tons, respectively, so that the number and tonnage of sailing vessels employed in the coasting trade further increased. Of the vessels engaged in the coasting trade, the number of steamers, which entered Rangoon, rose from 547 to 654 and their tonnage from 1,001,001 tons to 1,232,635, and of those which cleared from Rangoon, the number of steamers rose from 532 to 607 and their tonnage from 931,480 tons to 1,098,025. The number of sailing ships which entered rose from 102 to 426 and their tonnage from 13,583 to 32,172, and of those which cleared rose from 191 to 437 and their tonnage from 13,535 tons to 36,005.

The number of British vessels, entering the ports of the Province from foreign countries during the year, rose from 346 to 456, and the number of foreign vessels also rose from 291 to 343. The number of vessels under French colours fell from 15 to 7, but their tonnage rose from 5,640 tons to 6,174. Chinese vessels increased both in numbers and in tonnage from 49 of 49,084 tons to 66 of 69,716 tons. The number of Dutch vessels fell from 52 of 77,631 tons to 24 of 67,638. The number of Greek and Italian vessels also fell from 6 of 10,766 tons to 2 of 3,793 and from 15 of 38,444 tons to 8 of 20,363, respectively. There was a very large increase in Japanese shipping from 86 vessels of 149,257 tons to 151 of 275,421 tons. The number of those under the Norwegian flag fell

Cal. III-
Photo-
tion.

slightly from 36 to 34, but their tonnage rose from 33,211 tons to 39,129. Fifteen vessels of 7,817 tons under American colours entered the ports of the Province against none last year.

In the coasting trade the number of vessels which flew British colours rose from 815 to 841 and of those which flew foreign colours from 80 to 84. The number of native craft rose from 3,486 of 93,988 tons to 4,082 of 126,331 tons.

In the foreign trade of Rangoon, 183 vessels of an aggregate tonnage of 394,683 tons entered under British colours as against 148 vessels of 386,813 tons, and 279 vessels under foreign colours of an aggregate tonnage of 483,291 tons as compared with 233 vessels of 364,907 tons in 1917-18. The total number of foreign vessels comprised 145 Japanese, 48 Chinese, 28 Norwegian, 24 Dutch, 7 Russian, 6 Italian, 5 each American, French and Spanish, 2 each Danish and Greek and 1 each Portuguese and Swedish. Of the total clearances, 183 vessels representing 443,368 tons were under the British flag as against 141 vessels of 416,339 tons in the preceding year; and 306 vessels with a tonnage of 566,700 tons were under foreign colours as against 249 vessels of 409,038 tons in 1917-18. The latter comprised 152 Japanese, 46 Chinese, 39 Dutch, 30 Norwegian 13 Russian, 5 each French, Italian and Spanish, 4 American, 2 each Danish, Greek and Swedish and 1 Portuguese. Besides these, there were also 27 entries and 38 clearances of native craft as against 1 and 11 in the previous year. The total number of vessels which entered in the coasting trade of the Province was 6,361 aggregating in tonnage 1,651,354 tons as against 5,268 representing 1,393,350 tons; and 5,764 vessels with a burthen of 1,475,331 tons cleared as compared with 4,953 vessels of 1,323,641 tons.

In the coasting trade of Rangoon, 947 British vessels (including 360 native craft) entered the port as against 646 (including 187 native craft) and 133 foreign vessels, as compared with 103: these latter included 50 Dutch, 39 Japanese, 22 Russian, 11 Norwegian, 8 Chinese, 2 French and 1 Swedish. Clearances showed 943 British vessels (including 360 native craft) against 635 (including 178 native craft) and 101 foreign vessels as compared with 88 in the preceding year: the foreign vessels consisted of 34 each Japanese and Dutch, 20 Russian, 8 Chinese, 4 Norwegian and 1 French.

Of the total number of entries at Rangoon in the foreign trade, 241 steamers and 24 sailing vessels came in ballast against 199 and 14, while 3 steamers cleared in ballast against 2 in the previous year. In the coasting trade, 118 steamers and 52 sailing vessels entered in ballast against 59 and 6; clearances in ballast showed 20 steamers and 149 sailing vessels as compared with 27 and 52 in 1917-18.

Commercial
marine:
vessels and
navigation.

77. During the year there were 23 accidents to sea-going vessels in the port of Rangoon, 10 more than in the previous year. Fourteen of the accidents occurred, while the vessel was in charge of a pilot or assistant harbour-master, and in two cases it was found necessary to take action against the officers concerned. None of the accidents was serious. The accidents referred to above do not include the loss by fire of the steamers "Chi Yuen" and "Tenzin."

Government
vessels
and
launches.

78. The year opened with 164 Government vessels. The Royal Indian Marine Vessel "Sladen" continued to be at Rangoon until December 1918 on the examination service of the Port of Rangoon. The "Bhamo" and "Sladen" carried by river 2,800 troops and followers, besides women and children, convicts and ammunition, and about 1,700 tons of stores and 16,000 packages, as compared with 900 troops and followers and 900 tons of stores and 500 packages carried in the previous year, but their total earnings fell by Rs. 21,034, from Rs. 2,48 lakhs to Rs. 2,27 lakhs. Three motor-launches and a cutter were added to the flotilla during the year. A motor-launch, a steam-launch and a flat were sent to Upper Burma for work in connection with the Kuki expedition. One old motor-launch, the hull of which was found unserviceable, was condemned. At the close of the year there were in Upper and Lower Burma 90 steam-launches, 2 steam-barges, 27 motor-launches, 13 house-boats, 11 flats, 7 barges, 1

water-boat, 4 light-ships, 3 dredgers, 2 buoy-vessels, 1 mooring boat, 3 cargo-boats, 1 pony-boat and 1 rock-smasher, 166 in all, besides 2 steam-launches which continued to be hired by Government and 20 vessels of various kinds which were still in Mesopotamia. The steam-launch "Mogok," while on duty connected with the Kuki punitive measures, sank while at anchor about a mile above Shwe-saye, but she was successfully floated. The steam-launch "Kalewa" was badly holed, having struck a snag two miles below Pabgyin. She was re-floated and made fit to resume duty at Mawlaik in connection with the Kuki punitive measures. The three steam-launches, which were taken away from the districts in 1916-17, continued to be employed during the year on Customs and Military patrol work in the Rangoon River, or on work in connection with the Kuki expedition. The total earnings of the Government vessels for the year rose by Rs. 1'31 lakhs to Rs. 8'80 lakhs. The Police, Telegraph, Customs and other boats in the various Districts were in good condition and fully employed. A port gig and three police country boats were condemned. The wood and coal depôts continued to supply requirements and the fuelling arrangements carried out by the Forest Department continued to be satisfactory. Two new wood depôts were opened in the year. The value of the stores received in the store godown at Rangoon, Mandalay and Bassein was Rs. 1'05 lakhs as compared with Rs. 1'6 lakhs in the previous year, and the value of the stores issued was Rs. 3'16 lakhs, a decrease of Rs. 64,319. The value of the work done at the Marine Workshop, Mandalay, fell further from Rs. 61,458 to Rs. 57,719. The cost of repairs to vessels and works carried out at the Government Dockyard, Rangoon, fell from Rs. 3'81 lakhs to Rs. 2'71 lakhs.

CHAP. III.—
PROSECUTION.

79. During the year three swinging moorings below the Hastings shoal were replaced by four berths of fixed moorings. The dredger "Cormorant" worked on the Monkey Point channel and Danidaw reach throughout the year. She dredged 1,217,000 tons and successfully maintained a depth of not less than 14 feet reduced on the principal tracks of these channels. The dredger "Hastings" also dredged 94,250 tons in 129 working days at the various wharves and jetties. During the year 30 vessels had, owing to insufficient water, to complete their loading below the Hastings as compared with 42 in the previous year. Six vessels, the same number as last year, could not on arrival enter the harbour, owing to insufficient water, and were detained below the Hastings. With the exception of the shoaling on the south side of the harbour, the river bed in general remained normal throughout the year. During the year complete new surveys of the river bed of the inner harbour and also from Elephant Point to Fairway buoy, were completed. The areas were sounded, re-coastlined and all shore details were brought up to date and newly plotted.

Marine
works and
surveys

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

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Agriculture.

Occupied
and culti-
vated areas.

80. The occupied area of the Province increased during the year from 18,625,489 to 18,740,205 acres, or an increase of 114,716 acres, against an increase last year of 268,888 acres over the preceding year's figures. The cultivated area fell by 94,051 acres to 14,573,976 acres and the matured area by 446,603 acres to 13,475,979 acres, while the fallowed area increased by 208,767 acres to 4,166,229 acres. The variations exhibited by the above figures are due to the difference between an abnormally good season in 1917-18 and an indifferent one in 1918-19.

The occupied area increased in all Lower Burma districts except Ma-ubin, where the decrease was trifling; Thaton, where the decrease was mainly due to a transfer of 44,506 acres to the Pegu District; and Amherst, where the decrease of 8,601 acres was due to areas being taken up for salt manufacture, to abandonments due to floods and to resumptions of lands by Government. The decrease in the area cultivated and the increase in the non-matured area are also common to nearly every district in Lower Burma, and are due to floods and insufficient late rains. The area over which crops failed was exceptionally large in the Ma-ubin and Insein Districts, which show increases of 98,179 acres and 96,917 acres, respectively, over the figures of the previous year.

In Upper Burma the season was, on the whole, less unfavourable than in Lower Burma and all districts except Minbu show an increase in the area occupied. The small decrease in the Minbu District is due to the transfer of two small

islands with an area of 6,239 acres to the Magwe District. Owing to deficient rainfall there were, however, fairly general increases in the area fallowed and in the area over which crops failed.

Nearly all the land cropped more than once lay in the Magwe, Meiktila and Sagaing Divisions of Upper Burma and its area increased from 595,567 to 673,053 acres, owing to an extension of the practice of sowing millet and peas after early sessamum.

The crop most largely cultivated was, as usual, rice, which occupied 10,384,404 acres, or over 68 per cent. of the gross cropped area. The area under this crop, however, contracted by 132,812 acres, owing to unfavourable climatic conditions and to floods. Owing to good rainfall at the beginning of the season, the area under sessamum, which was the next most popular crop, increased by 16 per cent. to 1,267,195 acres. Though efforts were made by district officials to discourage the sowing of small white beans in anticipation of a reduced European demand and a consequent fall in prices, both of which actually occurred, the area under this crop, nevertheless, again increased by 15 per cent. to 553,876 acres. Red and white millet occupied 467,428 acres, but, owing to deficient late rains, a large proportion of this crop failed. High prices and a favourable early rainfall stimulated the growing of cotton, which covered 371,829 acres, or 72,028 acres in excess of the highest figure previously recorded. The area under groundnut was 249,427 acres, or practically the same as the previous year, but that under tobacco increased by 20 per cent. to 106,995 acres, owing to the high prices received in 1917-18. The areas under rubber and sugar-cane increased slightly to 66,524 and 20,379 acres, respectively.

81. The area irrigated from all sources fell from 1,249,986 to 1,236,062 acres, or 72 per cent. of the irrigable area. The area irrigated from Government canals increased by 16,941 acres to 502,580 acres, but this was more than counterbalanced by heavy decreases, owing to deficient rainfall in the areas irrigated from Government and private tanks. In the Shwebo District 33,450 acres were irrigated for the first time from the Ye-u canal, but the area irrigated from the Shwebo canal system declined by 6,544 acres, owing to neglect on the part of cultivators to maintain water-courses and to temporary abandonment of land by non-residents, owing to a bad paddy market in the previous year. The poor rainfall was responsible for decreases of 16,227 acres and 6,019 acres in the total area irrigated in the Yamethin and Magwe Districts, respectively.

82. Comprehensive proposals for the reorganization of the staff of the Agricultural Department were accepted by the Local Government during the year of report, and are now under consideration by the Government of India. The plans of the proposed Agricultural College and Research Institute at Mandalay were approved, sanction was given to an expenditure of Rs. 11.65 lakhs, towards which the Government of India have contributed Rs. 6 lakhs, and the work of construction has been taken in hand. The staff of the department was strengthened by the appointment of an Economic Botanist and by the temporary appointment of an Agricultural Engineer, and the sanction of the Secretary of State to the appointment of a third Deputy Director of Agriculture is awaited. The four Assistants under training at the Poona Agricultural College made satisfactory progress during the year, but one of them unfortunately died of influenza while on leave. Another man sent by the *Sambwa* of Hsipaw State joined the College during the year and may prove a valuable recruit in the Northern Shan States Circle, if he completes his training. The four District Agriculturists under training at Hmawbi for the Irrawaddy Division finished their course and started work in their respective districts. The District Agriculturist for the Amberst District also completed his training, but was temporarily retained at Hmawbi and will join his appointment in 1920. Sixteen members of Co-operative Societies and two Kachins from the Bhamo District received instruction in agricultural methods at the various farms of the department and all were granted stipends at a total cost of Rs. 1,013. Negotiations are in progress for the establishment of an aided

CHAP. IV.—
PRODUC-
TION AND
DISTRIBUTION.

Area
irrigated.

The Agricul-
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Department.

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DISTRIBUTION.

Vernacular Agricultural School at Pyinmana. The expenditure of the department rose from Rs. 2'39 lakhs to Rs. 3'58 lakhs, of which Rs. 1'48 lakhs represents contributions to botanical and other public gardens; receipts increased slightly from Rs. 12,892 to Rs. 13,472.

Agricultural
research.

83. As in the previous year there were three main Agricultural stations at Mandalay, Hmawbi and Tatkōn, respectively, besides five sub-stations and eight district farms. Experiments with a chain pump in connection with a scheme for the well irrigation of cotton were begun in the Lower Chindwin District and at the Hmawbi station a further 10 acres of suitable land were acquired for purposes of garden cultivation.

Much useful experimental work was done in connection with rice cultivation. Experiments at Mandalay showed the great importance of early irrigation and ploughing and the evil effects of overcrowding in nurseries were demonstrated. A conference was held at Maymyo to co-ordinate the action of the Irrigation and Agricultural Departments and a tank was erected for the careful measurement of water applied to experimental plots and to collect data applicable to the irrigation of paddy. In Lower Burma the pure strains bred by the Department continued to do well and the fact that millers paid Rs. 5 to Rs. 15 per 100 baskets above the usual market rate to secure the produce afforded gratifying tangible evidence of the improvement effected. The most suitable varieties of grain for the new and expanding trade in parboiled rice were determined and it is hoped to start organized distribution of the seed in 1920.

The merits of drill sowing as opposed to broadcasting in the case of sessamum were investigated and the superiority of the former were demonstrated. The designing of a suitable seed drill for the sowing of sessamum engaged the attention of the Agricultural Engineer and it is anticipated that the adoption of this method of cultivation will have very important and wide-reaching results. The collection of varieties of sessamum was continued and tests were carried on to obtain further data on the respective merits of eight varieties.

Wheat of both the macaroni and bread varieties was tried in six places in Upper Burma and three useful strains of the former were secured, giving a 13 per cent. greater yield than local varieties. It is probable also that some promising strains will be obtained as the result of trials of bread wheat conducted at Yawnghwe in the Southern Shan States, but the main progress made has been in method and it was proved that green manuring doubles the yield.

Experiments in groundnut cultivation on the district farms in the Pakōkku and Myingyan Districts yielded much valuable information. It was proved that the small seeded upright types, such as Tumbu, Small Japanese and Spanish, were not only far more profitable to grow, but much more easy to harvest than the spreading Burmese type now grown.

The Agricultural Chemist conducted an important and interesting series of experiments as to the hydrocyanide contents of the small white Burma bean and demonstrated that the fear of prussic acid poisoning was quite unjustified. The prejudice will, however, take some time to disappear and the attention of the department was devoted to possible substitutes.

Investigations into the cotton problems of the Province were conducted at Tatkōn and made considerable progress. A satisfactory pure strain, both as regards yield and ginning percentage, has been secured and some 1,500 acres in the Meiktila, Myingyan and Pakōkku Districts are now under this variety. A premium of Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 per 100 viss was offered by cultivators for the seed and a small Government ginnery is being erected at Mahlaing in the Meiktila District to deal with the produce and to keep the seed pure. Cross breeding between Shan and *Wagyi*, *Wagale* and Broach varieties was continued with most promising results, but the yields of Cambodia and other exotic varieties were, on the whole, disappointing.

Experiments in jute cultivation were made both in Upper and Lower Burma with somewhat indifferent results, and owing to unsuitable distribution of rainfall and high cost of labour as compared with Bengal, it seems doubtful whether jute in Burma is likely to be a success.

Among fodder crops guinea grass did well at Hmawbi and many applications for roots were received from rubber planters. Experiments failed to discover an antidote to the parasite, *Striga lutea*, which attacks jowar, and experience indicated that the special adaptation of the plant and its seed militate against the discovery of a complete remedy.

Successful experiments were made with potatoes, barley and linseed, but oats did not do well.

Proposals for a dairy at Mandalay were submitted, but the whole subject is beset by difficulties, such as the introduction of exotic breeds and the conflicting claims of the cultivator and the dairyman.

84. In the Northern Circle, 7,931 baskets of selected strains of paddy seed were distributed and the supply was unequal to the demand. An effort was made to push wheat cultivation and 4,000 baskets of seed from the Shan States and the Sagaing District were distributed, mostly in the Shwebo District. In addition 5,824 lbs. of selected gram and 5,148 lbs. of cotton seed besides a considerable amount of miscellaneous seeds were supplied. In the Southern Circle 4,834 baskets of pure strain varieties of paddy were issued, the bulk of which was grown at Hmawbi. Cotton seed to the amount of 32,381 lbs. was supplied, principally from Tatkön and Meiktila, and the farms at Pakökku and Allannmyo issued 7,931 lbs. of groundnut. Issues of small white beans dropped to 13,024 lbs., or one-sixth of the issues of the previous year. As in the Northern Circle, seed for miscellaneous crops was also distributed, the most important being 500 lbs. of jute and 40 lbs. of tobacco. District Agriculturists did good work in the supervision and explanation of district experimental work and in the distribution of seed. European implements were almost unprocurable, and when available the price was quite beyond the means of the ordinary agriculturist. There is a keen demand for Cyprus ploughs, and 150 are wanted in the Sagaing District when available at a reasonable price. The question of designing and manufacturing suitable farm implements for local needs was taken up by the Agricultural Engineer, who was, however, much handicapped by lack of subordinate staff.

CHAP. IV.—
PRO-
DUCTION AND
DISTRIBUTION.

Seed distribution and demonstration.

85. The services of two Superintendents having been placed at the disposal of the military authorities, only one Superintendent was available for duty in the Province during the year. The subordinate staff at the end of the year consisted of 19 Inspectors, including two serving in the Shan States, and 166 Veterinary Assistants serving in Burma proper and 17 serving in the Shan States. As compared with the previous year there was an increase of 9 Assistants in Burma proper and a decrease of 1 Assistant in the Shan States, the number of Inspectors remaining the same. Sanction was given to the further strengthening of the subordinate staff by 3 Deputy Superintendents, 7 Inspectors and 52 Assistants. The number of animals treated by Assistants while on tour rose from 71,567 to 73,443, exclusive of those dealt with in the Shan States for which complete statistics are not available. The cost of the department rose from Rs. 3.08 lakhs to Rs. 3.81 lakhs, chiefly on account of increased expenditure on subordinate establishment and Veterinary instruction.

Veterinary
Department
Staff and
Veterinary
School.

There were 42 pupils under training at the Veterinary School at Insein at the close of the year as compared with 19 at the end of the previous year. All the 18 pupils in the senior class passed the written examination, but 6 failed in practical work and were kept back, the remaining 12 being posted to districts.

The behaviour of the pupils was good and they received practical training in the field. The number of animals treated at the Veterinary Hospital fell from 2,310 to 1,999 and the daily average attendance from 32 to 23. The opening of Additional Veterinary Centres at suitable local centres was under consideration during the year. The number of slides examined at the laboratory increased from 6,751, of which 4,198 came from the districts, to 6,358, of which 4,942 were received from the districts. The number of pupils at the Veterinary School at Taunggyi in the Southern Shan States was 6, the same figure as in the previous year. No breeding operations were undertaken during the year.

CHAP. IV.—
PRODUC-
TION AND
DISTRIBUTION
OF
CATTLE
DISEASE.

86. In Lower Burma the year was unfortunately marked by a very serious outbreak of rinder pest and the mortality specifically attributed to this cause amounted to over 20,000, the Tharrawaddy, Insein, Prome and Henzada Districts being the most seriously affected. There were also sporadic outbreaks in many districts in Upper Burma, though serious losses were mainly confined to the Katha and Thayetmyo Districts with 3,000 and 1,000 deaths, respectively. Energetic action under the segregation rules was taken and no less than 64,824 animals were inoculated. As a result of these measures the Province, on the whole, escaped lightly, though the mortality was the heaviest experienced since 1905-06.

The large herds of cattle bred by Indians for the sale of milk in the neighbourhood of large towns played a considerable part in the spread of disease, and remedial measures are under the consideration of the Local Government.

Anthrax occurred in the Insein and Myaungmya Districts, which had 429 and 179 deaths, respectively, from this cause, but it gave no trouble elsewhere. Foot-and-mouth disease was very prevalent in the Bassein District with 375 deaths and in the Myaungmya District with 391 deaths, and there was a fair amount of this disease also in the Tharrawaddy, Bhamo and Putao Districts.

Surra was chiefly confined to Upper Burma and the Shan States, but losses were not serious except in the Kengtūng State.

The number of deaths among cattle (bovines) in Burma proper from rinderpest, anthrax (under which head are included hæmorrhagic septicæmia and black quarter) and foot-and-mouth disease were 25,919, 2,451 and 2,081, respectively, as against 4,698, 1,844 and 1,921, respectively, in the previous year.

Stock.

87. Owing no doubt to the prevalence of rinderpest and the generally unhealthy character of the year, the number of mature bulls and bullocks declined in round figures from 2,387,000 to 2,373,000 and the number of cows from 1,355,000 to 1,333,000. The tendency to replace buffaloes by kine continued and the number of the former again fell from 824,000 to 809,000 approximately. The number of horses and ponies showed little change, but, owing to purchases for military purposes on the frontier, the number of mules fell from 1,611 to 1,196. On the other hand, the profitable business of pig breeding is on the increase in most districts and the number of pigs rose considerably from 305,000 to 369,000 approximately. Another successful cattle show was held at Yamèthin, at which some 4,000 head of cattle were exhibited. The report of a special committee on stock-breeding is under consideration by the Local Government.

Agricultural
loans.

88. The agricultural advances made by Government during the year, exclusive of advances to Co-operative Societies, rose from Rs. 9·25 lakhs to Rs. 12·83 lakhs. At the commencement of the year Rs. 14·90 lakhs were outstanding as compared with Rs. 14·39 lakhs at the beginning of 1917-18, and the total amount on loan was thus Rs. 27·73 lakhs as against Rs. 23·64 lakhs in the previous year. The total amount due for collection during the year, excluding interest, rose from Rs. 15·39 lakhs to Rs. 19·33 lakhs. Of this amount Rs. 12·97 lakhs were collected, Rs. 8,365 were remitted and Rs. 1·37 lakhs were suspended by competent authority.

As in previous years, advances and collections showed striking differences between districts. Advances exceeding Rs. 40,000 were confined to the six districts of Akyab (Rs. 3·61 lakhs), Prome (Rs. 1·20 lakhs), Yamèthin (Rs. 1·40 lakhs), Shwebo (Rs. ·90 lakh), Pegu (Rs. ·44 lakh) and Pakòkku (Rs. ·48 lakh) and the same six districts with the addition of the Meiktila and Kyaukpyu Districts are responsible for approximately Rs. 17·25 lakhs of the total amount on loan. The five districts of Akyab, Kyaukpyu, Shwebo, Yamèthin and Prome were responsible for over half the total balance of Rs. 14·71 lakhs outstanding at the end of the year.

The amount suspended by competent authority during the year dropped by Rs. ·35 lakh to Rs. 1·37 lakhs and the amount overdue by Rs. ·63 lakh to Rs. 4·11 lakhs. The heaviest suspension amounting to Rs. 31,234 was granted in the Kyaukpyu District, but in only four other districts did the amount suspended

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PRODUC-
TION AND
DISTRIBUTION
OF
CATTLE
DISEASE.

86. In Lower Burma the year was unfortunately marked by a very serious outbreak of rinder pest and the mortality specifically attributed to this cause amounted to over 20,000, the Tharrawaddy, Insein, Prome and Henzada Districts being the most seriously affected. There were also sporadic outbreaks in many districts in Upper Burma, though serious losses were mainly confined to the Katha and Thayetmyo Districts with 3,000 and 1,000 deaths, respectively. Energetic action under the segregation rules was taken and no less than 64,824 animals were inoculated. As a result of these measures the Province, on the whole, escaped lightly, though the mortality was the heaviest experienced since 1905-06.

The large herds of cattle bred by Indians for the sale of milk in the neighbourhood of large towns played a considerable part in the spread of disease, and remedial measures are under the consideration of the Local Government.

Anthrax occurred in the Insein and Myaungmya Districts, which had 429 and 179 deaths, respectively, from this cause, but it gave no trouble elsewhere. Foot-and-mouth disease was very prevalent in the Bassein District with 375 deaths and in the Myaungmya District with 391 deaths, and there was a fair amount of this disease also in the Tharrawaddy, Bhamo and Putao Districts.

Surra was chiefly confined to Upper Burma and the Shan States, but losses were not serious except in the Kengtūng State.

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exceed Rs. 10,000. Floods and the unfavourable season were the causes of the suspensions granted.

The three districts of Akyab, Kyaukpyu and Yamethin were responsible for Rs. 2.47 lakhs of the Rs. 4.11 lakhs overdue and in only two other districts did the amount overdue exceed Rs. 20,000. A large proportion of the amount overdue on the 31st March 1919 was, however, paid in during the succeeding three months.

The amount advanced under the Land Improvement Loans Act was Rs. 7,600, or Rs. 6,350 less than in 1917-18. The sum of Rs. 42,275 was outstanding from the previous year, so that the total amount on loan at the end of the year was Rs. 49,875. Of a total sum of Rs. 12,861 due for collection during the year, Rs. 10,801 were collected, Rs. 200 were remitted, Rs. 1,535 were suspended and Rs. 1,174 were overdue. The balance outstanding at the end of the year was Rs. 38,874 as compared with Rs. 42,276 last. The money advanced was in the form of small loans for irrigation work.

The rate of interest charged by the Government of India to the Local Government on the Provincial Loan Account remained at 5½ per cent. and the interest charged by the Local Government to cultivators at 6½ per cent. with a penal interest of 8 per cent. The net financial result of the loan operations during the year of report, after repayment of principal and interest to the Government of India and deduction of principal remitted, was a profit of Rs. 32,890 as compared with a loss of Rs. 19,349 in 1917-18.

89. Embankments constructed for the protection of cultivation from floods are maintained by the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department. The area so protected rose from 810,645 acres to 819,904 acres, the gross revenue from Rs. 20.60 lakhs to Rs. 32.65 lakhs, the working expenses from Rs. 2.99 lakhs to Rs. 4.60 lakhs and the net revenue from Rs. 17.67 lakhs to Rs. 28.05 lakhs. Capital accounts are kept only for the more important embankments along the lower course of the Irrawaddy River on its right bank, and for other embankments along the Sittang River and elsewhere only revenue accounts are maintained. The total capital outlay on the former rose from Rs. 46.20 lakhs to Rs. 48.63 lakhs and the outlay during the year fell from Rs. 4.32 lakhs to Rs. 2.43 lakhs. The increase in working expenses is due to expenditure on the new embankment round the Yandoon Island in the Ma-ubin District. The large increase in revenue is partly due to the omission from last year's figures of a sum of Rs. 6 lakhs, which has been included in those of the present year and partly to the increase in the area protected.

The flood season in the Irrawaddy Delta was remarkable for the early rise of the river and the permanence of the flood. Numerous retirements were under construction in the Henzada, Ma-ubin and Bassein Districts. Three large breaches occurred in the first five miles of the Irrawaddy branch of the Yandoon Island embankment shortly after its completion. Estimates for strengthening and raising the crest of this embankment were prepared, and work during the year has mainly been confined to this strengthening. Expenditure on this scheme during the year amounted to Rs. 2.18 lakhs and the total expenditure till the end of the year to Rs. 6.16 lakhs. The work of training the Yenwe River in the Pegu District was continued and the double training bunds were extended for a further 8,000 feet through a silt fan which had formed at the tail of the embankments constructed in the previous year. Before the work was completed, a very heavy flood breached one of the embankments for 120 feet and also the railway line and was only closed after considerable labour six weeks later. As in the previous year, the embanked channel terminated in flat country, the water being left to find its own way to the Sittang River, but estimates have been sanctioned for extending the side banks another 8,000 feet, which will bring their terminal point to within three miles of the Panut creek to which it is proposed eventually to link up. There was much erosion near Myitkyo on the Sittang River, and the probability of the river cutting through the loop of the embankment at this point necessitated the construction of a retirement estimated to cost Rs. 20,031.

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PROTEC-
TION AND
DEVELOP-
MENT.

Protection
from floods.

CHAP. IV.—
PRODUCTION
AND
DISTRIBUTION.
Character of
the seasons.

Weather and Crops.

90. The agricultural season of 1918-19 was, on the whole, an indifferent one. The early rainfall was almost everywhere timely and ample, and in places was even excessive. The middle rains were, however, scanty, outside the wet zone crops withered, and heavy showers in November came too late to do much good. In the dry zone, conditions varied from district to district, but the season was generally unfavourable and late inundations from the Chindwin and Irrawaddy Rivers damaged paddy, though they benefited riverine and island crops. In Lower Burma also much damage was caused by floods in the Pegu and Irrawaddy Divisions and in the Thaton and Amherst Districts of the Tenasserim Division.

Outturns
and prices.

91. Owing to the unfavourable character of the season, the total estimated outturn of unhusked rice for the Province declined from 7,144,933 to 5,973,295 tons, or a decrease of 16 per cent. The final estimate of the surplus available for export was 2.11 million tons as against 2.70 million tons in the previous year. As a result of the high prices obtained and consequent expansion in the area cultivated, the yield of cleaned cotton increased from 7,614 to 12,250 tons. Groundnuts and white beans both suffered from drought and the outturn of the former fell from 105,568 tons to 99,087 tons though the area cultivated was the same, while the outturn of small white beans remained stationary at approximately 142,000 tons, in spite of an expansion of 80,156 acres in the area under this crop. The yield of wheat increased further from 7,483 to 9,309 tons, but, owing to the attacks of the parasitic weed known as *pain-byu-bin* (*Striga lutea*), the outturn of red millet decreased by 15,997 tons and that of white millet by 4,165 tons to 36,771 and 17,565 tons, respectively. Though the area under sessamum increased by 16 per cent., the outturn increased by 293 tons only to 81,483 tons. According to Customs returns, the quantity of rubber exported rose from 2,634,380 lbs. to 4,149,242 lbs.

During July 1918 the market in Rangoon for unhusked rice was steady at Rs. 92 to Rs. 105 per 100 baskets, weighing 46 lbs. each. It then rose gradually during August to Rs. 130, and more rapidly in September to between Rs. 140 and Rs. 170 according to quality, millers pressing for supplies and stock holders being disinclined to sell. Towards the end of October the market was easier at between Rs. 155 and Rs. 160 per 100 baskets and supplies were on a free scale, but prices hardened again in November to Rs. 180, owing to millers having to cover their sales to the military authorities. Towards the end of the month, however, prices dropped to Rs. 160 and Rs. 140 and eventually to Rs. 110 in December, with the approach of the new crop. Supplies began to arrive early in January and at the end of the month prices were about Rs. 127 per 100 baskets. With larger supplies, prices eased off slightly in the beginning of February, but hardened again, owing to speculators in the districts holding up supplies and at the end of the month the market was firm at between Rs. 125 and Rs. 130. During March and April prices rose gradually to Rs. 140, Rs. 150 and Rs. 155 per 100 baskets, but hardly any business was transacted, as the controlled price of rice did not permit of millers paying more than approximately Rs. 130 for paddy. Trade was thus at a standstill till the arrival of the Foodstuffs Commissioner from India, when it was decided to control paddy and a price of Rs. 150 was fixed as the maximum rate for 100 baskets delivered at Rangoon. The notification fixing this maximum rate was distributed in the districts in May, when an easier tendency became apparent and a certain quantity of rail paddy was sold at the controlled price, but purchases of boat paddy on a large scale still remained impossible. The course of prices at the minor ports of Akyab, Bassein and Moulmein did not differ materially from the rates at Rangoon. Owing to the heavy demand and the indifferent harvest, the prices of nearly all other foodstuffs increased considerably. The price of wheat, of large white beans and of red beans increased by 35 to 40 per cent., and there was a similar increase in the price of red and white millet, the supply of both being low and the demand as a substitute for rice being very large. The prices of maize, gram and sessamum all increased from 50 per cent. to nearly 100 per cent. The only exception to the

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FARMER
UNION AND
CO-OPERATION.

general rise was the small white bean, the price of which dropped heavily, owing to the restricted European demand. There was much speculation in cotton, and prices were considerably above normal. The season opened at about Rs. 80 per 100 viss and prices remained at that level for two months, but subsequently dropped to Rs. 65 and Rs. 45, with the result that middlemen who bought early in the season incurred considerable losses. Though the outturn of nearly all crops left much to be desired, yet cultivators received considerably more for their produce than in previous years and more money has come into their hands, more especially in Upper Burma.

Co-operation.

Administrative and General.

92. During the year the Thaton District was added to the list of districts in which the co-operative movement has found a footing, and Agricultural Societies are now established in 26 of the 37 districts in the Province and in the Northern Shan States. It is particularly satisfactory that the extension of the movement to the Thaton District owed nothing to official propaganda, and was entirely due to the initiative of local Karens, who invited a well-known Karen teacher from another district to come and organize their societies. Arrangements are in progress to extend operations to the Arakan Division, and four men from that division have been selected for training as Junior Assistant Registrars.

The superior administrative staff of the department remained unchanged, there being one Registrar for the Province, assisted by two Joint Registrars for Upper and Lower Burma, respectively. Working under the Joint Registrars there were seven Assistant Registrars, exclusive of a Superintendent of Training. The Local Government during the year sanctioned a scheme increasing the cadre of Junior Assistant Registrars to 32, of whom 5 will be concerned with administration and 27 with super-audit and propaganda. Unfortunately, the scheme for the direct recruitment of University graduates for employment as Junior Assistant Registrars was not altogether a success and failed to attract candidates in sufficient numbers.

The cost of the department in staff and contingencies rose from Rs. 2.46 lakhs to Rs. 2.56 lakhs, but the amount spent by societies in management and contingencies declined from Rs. 2.82 lakhs to Rs. 2.69 lakhs.

The number of societies of all kinds rose from 3,056 to 3,612, and the number of members from 73,702 to 88,860. Unions increased from 240 to 325, agricultural credit societies from 2,279 to 2,675, non-agricultural credit societies from 85 to 123 and cattle insurance societies from 379 to 386.

The increase in the number of agricultural credit societies was well distributed, and some increase took place in Lower Burma Districts, where growth has hitherto been slow. The other important features of the year's working were the establishment of a new District Central Bank at Prome, the continued growth in strength and resources of the Provincial Central Bank at Mandalay, the increase of Burmans' deposits in Urban Societies and District Central Banks, and the vitality shown by Urban Credit Societies. The working capital of all classes of societies rose from Rs. 1.84 lakhs to Rs. 2.18 lakhs, or, if the money lent by societies of one class to societies of another class be omitted, from Rs. 1.22 lakhs to Rs. 1.52 lakhs. No amendments of the Act or Rules were made, but two amendments of the Rules are under consideration, the one authorising the Registrar to rescind resolutions of societies outside the scope of their bye-laws, and the other to enable an arbitrators' award to be executed as a decree instead of being presented with *ad valorem* Court-fees as a regular suit. A considerable amount of work was done in drafting bye-laws for various societies requiring special bye-laws of their own, such as a co-operative saw-mill, a paddy sale society, a weaving society, an embankment society and a headmen's bank. District Conferences were again held in all districts in which co-operation is of importance.

93. Guaranteeing Unions continued to work well, their main functions being the supervision of primary societies and the assessment of their credit. They also did most valuable propaganda work. The system under which a supervisor

Unions and Central Banks.

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TION AND
DISTRIBUTION.

is appointed, controlled and paid for by a group of four or five adjacent Unions was most successful, and the post was much sought after. Unions showed discrimination in assessing the credit of their component primary societies, and the Registrar was able to accept their recommendations, except in rare instances. The only locality, where the system of guaranteeing Unions failed to spread, was the Irrawaddy Delta, where, owing to mutual distrust, neighbouring villages generally declined to combine to form a guaranteeing Union, and it seems probable a peculiar variety of co-operative credit organization will eventually be found necessary in this area.

The Upper Burma Central Bank in Mandalay, which finances agricultural credit societies directly in all districts in which District Central Banks do not exist, and which also finances District Central Banks, continued to be managed on sound conservative lines. Its share capital increased from Rs. 2.69 lakhs to Rs. 3.12 lakhs, fixed deposits increased from Rs. 46.53 lakhs to Rs. 53.88 lakhs, in spite of the attractions of the Second Indian War Loan and the rise in exchange on London, and the Bank's investments in Government paper at par value rose from Rs. 16.16 lakhs to Rs. 24.55 lakhs. During the year 321 new societies were affiliated to the Bank and no loss was incurred. Loans to societies increased from Rs. 38.49 lakhs to Rs. 45.59 lakhs, and all applications from Upper and Lower Burma were met. The profit for the year was Rs. 1.09 lakhs as against Rs. 1.08 lakhs in 1917-18, and a dividend of 5 per cent. together with a bonus of 4 per cent. was paid. The Bank has hitherto not had much success in attracting deposits from natives of Burma and surplus funds deposited by societies have formed only a small proportion of its resources, but there are signs that this character of the Bank's finance is about to change, surplus funds are beginning to make their appearance in the case of District Banks and Urban Societies, and it will soon be possible for the Central Bank to begin to perform the functions of an apex Bank, that is to say, the balancing of surpluses and deficiencies. An important development was discussed during the year, namely the founding of a second co-operative bank in Rangoon, with the dual object of promoting Burmese commercial and industrial banking and of financing urban co-operative credit societies in Lower Burma, with which the Mandalay Bank has not hitherto had dealings. The District Central Banks at Pakokku, Sagu and Pegu continued to serve the districts in which they are situated, and two further Banks at Prome and Moulmein were registered during the year. Negotiations are in progress for the establishment of similar institutions in the Shwebo and Lower Chindwin Districts.

Agricultural
Credit
Societies.

94. Agricultural Credit Societies increased not only in numbers and membership, but also in efficiency, the greatest progress taking place in those districts in which the co-operative movement was already well established. As in the previous year, societies were graded according to efficiency, and the classifications were in order of merit, A class 55, B class 383, C class 1,388 and D class 362. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 49, 266, 931 and 398, respectively. A sound knowledge of co-operative principles is insisted on before a society is registered, and in some districts a probationary period of one year is enforced before final registration is permitted. The proportion of repayments by members to societies rose by 2 per cent. to 21.8 per cent., but the percentage of repayments by societies to Central Banks fell slightly from 25.4 per cent. to 25.1 per cent., owing to the increased cost of living and cultivation. Unsatisfactory working was noticed in the case of societies in the Mandalay, Minbu and Yamethin Districts, but notable increases took place in the Shwebo, Sagaing and Pakokku Districts of Upper Burma and in the Prome, Tharrawaddy and Pegu Districts of Lower Burma. The total number of societies in liquidation rose from 111 to 139, of which 59 were placed under liquidation during the year. Progress in liquidating societies was slow, owing to difficulty experienced in securing competent liquidators, and only Rs. 19,092 principal and Rs. 10,627 interest were recovered for Central Banks, leaving Rs. 1,95,411 outstanding.

Colonization
areas.

95. No new colonies were formed during the year, and this phase of co-operative development languished somewhat, owing to lack of officers to

supervise it. There was some failure to pay instalments of Government loans in the cases of the Kadānbaw and Namti colonies, and some disposition among the colonists to go behind one another's backs in the disposal of their crops. On the other hand, substantial progress was made by colonies established in the Namyin Valley and by the Hopin Union in the Myitkyina District. The breach of the embankment for the second year in succession prevented any actual colonization on the Yandoon Island in the Ma-ubin District, but a few societies were formed in villages on the river banks.

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TION AND
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TION.

96. One of the main features of the year was the great increase that has taken place in the numbers and membership of non-agricultural societies. Excluding purchase and sale societies, non-agricultural credit societies rose in number from 85 to 123, in membership from 8,699 to 13,536 and the amount advanced by them to individual borrowers increased from Rs. 11.92 lakhs to Rs. 17.38 lakhs. The development of Town Banks amongst traders and shop-keepers in Lower Burma is responsible for the greater part of this increase, and it has become clear that these Town Banks are satisfying a very real demand for credit by the industries and trades of the middle classes in towns. Societies of salary-earners continued to increase, especially in Rangoon where the large societies in Government offices were admirably managed. Credit societies of artisans increased, more especially in Mandalay Town, and it is hoped to organize purchase of raw materials and sale of manufactured products for these societies. Their products are multifarious and include teak-wood boxes and furniture, Burmese shoes, paintings on satin and cane basket-making. An attempt to obtain a market in London for lacquer goods produced by members of credit societies at Pegu has not so far been successful.

Other
Societies.

Owing to the higher range of prices at the beginning of the year and the uncertain prospects of the market, there were few co-operative sales of crops, except in co-operative colonies. There were no dealings with the military or other Government departments during the year. Six societies for the co-operative working of fisheries were registered in the Tharrawaddy District, and the three societies that succeeded in obtaining leases had a fairly successful year. Some of the fuel societies registered in previous years failed to obtain contracts and dissolved. Cattle insurance societies did not display any great vitality, and there was a drop in membership. These societies have so far been formed only in the five districts of Kyaukse, Meikula, Sagaing, Shwebo and Mandalay, which are ordinarily free from contagious disease, and it was thought that the present fixed premium of five per cent. was perhaps unduly high, in view of the comparatively slight risk incurred, and therefore tended to check the extension of societies. Government accordingly sanctioned the Registrar's proposals that, during the first three years of a Society's existence, the ordinary rate of premium should be nine pies in the rupee, or roughly five per cent., but that, if its experience and that of neighbouring societies justified the reduction, a reduced rate of six pies in the rupee might be levied at the end of this period. Subsequent triennial revisions of the rate of premium are to take place. It is, however, impossible to lay down any definite line of policy or to estimate the value of this form of co-operation until it is taken up in districts, where mortality from epidemic disease is normally heavy.

Horticulture.

97. The Agri-Horticultural Society of Burma with its headquarters and garden at Rangoon continued to be the only society of its kind in the Province. The membership declined from 217 to 211 and there was a loss on the year's working of Rs. 962 compared with a loss of Rs. 2,113 in the previous year. Receipts rose from Rs. 41,213 to Rs. 44,212, and expenditure, including Rs. 4,258 on account of depreciation, from Rs. 43,326 to Rs. 45,174. Sales of plants and flowers continued to increase steadily, and in the year of report amounted to Rs. 23,186, in spite of difficulty in obtaining seeds from England and in disposing of orchids to buyers in Europe. A successful Flower and Vegetable Show for

Agri-Horti-
cultural
Societies.

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TION AND
DISTRIBUTION.

School gardens was held during the year and the Council assisted the promoters by contributing money prizes. The Council Hall in the garden was occupied by a Museum of forest products, collected by the Forest Department of Government.

Forests.

Forest re-
serves,
unclassified
forests,
settlement,
demarcation,
survey and
working-
plans.

98. The total area of reserved forests at the end of the year of report was 29,336 square miles, equivalent to a net increase of 220 square miles during the year. The area of new reserves finally notified was 188 square miles, recomputation caused a net addition of 40 square miles, and 8 square miles were disforested. The area of unclassified forest at the end of the year was estimated to be 116,829 square miles, including an area of 15,156 square miles reported as being without forest growth. There was a net increase of 98 square miles during the year; there was a gain owing to the addition of the Sonira Hill Tract to the administered area of the Province, but this was partly counterbalanced by a loss due to reservation and the spread of cultivation. An area of 1,248 square miles was undergoing settlement at the beginning of the year and 844 square miles were taken in hand during the year. The area finally notified as reserved forest was 188 square miles and the area awaiting settlement is 1,835 square miles. The length of exterior boundaries demarcated rose from 204 to 292 miles and the cost of demarcation from Rs. 3,644 to Rs. 5,328. At the close of the year the total length of boundaries was 21,248 miles, of which 3,218 miles require no artificial marks and 152 miles still remain to be demarcated. A Special Forest Survey Party began work during the year and two ordinary Survey of India Parties were also employed. They surveyed 74 square miles of reserved forest on the 2-inch scale and traversed 295 miles of reserve boundary. Another party organized by the Commissioner of Settlements surveyed 88 square miles of tidal reserves in the Bassein-Myaungmya Forest Division. An area of 5,044 square miles of reserved forest still remains to be surveyed.

The revised working plan for the Yoma reserves in the Tharrawaddy District, covering an area of 315 square miles, was sanctioned during the year. The field-work of a plan dealing with 180 square miles in the Katha and Ruby Mines Districts was completed and the draft report is in the press. Owing to sylvicultural developments and to increased attention being paid to the extraction of timber other than teak, the whole question of working-plans is under reconsideration, both from the point of view of sylviculture as well as from that of exploitation.

Prevalence of
forest.

99. The number of detected offences against the Forest laws fell from 5,000 to 4,600, of which 33 were injuries to the forests by fire, 3,249 unauthorized fellings, 238 cases of unauthorized grazing and 1,080 other offences. The number of cases taken into Court fell from 926 to 687 and the percentage of cases in which a conviction was obtained rose from 85.9 to 86.6. The number of cases compounded by Forest Officers fell from 4,056 to 3,589 and the amount of composition paid from Rs. 47,756 to Rs. 44,413. Fines for breach of contracts and agreements, or for excess extraction under licenses, again rose considerably from about Rs. 8,000 to Rs. 12,512. An outstanding feature was the number of thefts from the reserves in the delta of the Irrawaddy River and from the reserves in the plains of the Tharrawaddy District. In these areas an enormous demand exists, which cannot be adequately satisfied till administrative and controlling charges are made smaller.

The area protected from fire again fell from 1,750 square miles to 1,347 square miles, the percentage of successful protection being 92. The cost of protection rose from Rs. 44 to Rs. 48 per square mile, in consequence of the decrease in the area protected. The gradual decrease in the area under protection is due to the accepted fact that fire protection prevents germination of teak, and in moist forest is useful only to prevent waste of dormant teak seed by too early germination in areas shortly to be brought under concentrated regeneration. Of the whole area of reserved forests 77.5 per cent. was again closed to grazing

throughout the year, 21'8 was open to grazing, but not browsing, for the whole or part of the year, and the balance was open to all animals for part of the year. The number of cattle impounded for unauthorised grazing fell from 4,963 to 2,582. There were also some instances of damage by tame elephants in regeneration areas. Owing to the increase of plantations and other regeneration work, the damage done by wild elephants, pig and sambhur is becoming more serious than formerly and progress was made with the issue of Kheddah licenses and licensed guns. Similarly damage done to young trees by insects is more noticeable with the increase in concentrated regeneration and steps are being taken to experiment with species other than teak and to engage more officers for entomological research.

Chart IV.
Production and
Distribution
of Timber

100. The total expenditure on roads and buildings increased from Rs. 2'84 lakhs to Rs. 3'09 lakhs. One hundred and twenty-eight miles of new cart-road were made at a cost of Rs. 27,821 and 253 miles of new bridle-path at a cost of Rs. 41,219. The total expenditure on roads was almost the same as in the previous year, and will be greatly exceeded when labour can be imported and conditions generally become more normal. The attempt to use ticket-of-leave convict labour in Lower Burma was not a success, chiefly owing to the sickness of the convicts. Expenditure on the up-keep of 4,067 miles of existing roads and paths amounted to Rs. 74,938. Expenditure on new buildings, including rest-houses and accommodation for the staff rose from Rs. 66,540 to Rs. 84,313. Repairs to all buildings cost Rs. 58,338.

Improvement of
forests.

In view of the fact that fellings for the establishment of natural regeneration of valuable species did not as a rule lead to rapid and complete stocking, this system gave way to semi-artificial means of concentrated regeneration by combining natural reproduction in *tangyas* (hill-sides cleared for paddy cultivation) with planting and sowing. Extensive and valuable work in connection with the new system was carried out, more especially in the Pegu and Northern Circles, where satisfactory results were obtained both from the financial and silvicultural point of view. Much information regarding the production and germination of seed, the silvicultural requirements of important species and peculiarities in coppicing was also collected. Improvement fellings had to be somewhat reduced owing to lack of staff. The question of forming regular plantations of fast growing species to produce timber and fuel for domestic use in populous areas of Lower Burma and of *Cassia auriculata* for tannin in the dry zone of Upper Burma received attention.

101. After careful consideration and full discussion it was decided, in the case of the more accessible forests, to introduce a system of concentrated exploitation, both for teak and other timber, to be followed by complete regeneration by elastic methods varying with the requirements of each type of forest. Cognate questions, such as increase of staff, the organization and education of a labour force, the erection of Government saw-mills, the establishment of markets outside the Province and silvicultural research, are under consideration.

Exploitation
of timber.

The total number of teak trees girdled fell from 203,785 to 174,218. The decrease was entirely due to postponement of girdling at the request of lessees in Upper Burma, as the balances of girdled trees remaining unfelled in the forest was excessive, owing to reduced exploitation during the latter part of the war. The number of trees girdled in Lower Burma was somewhat above the normal, owing to the killing of a large number of small trees growing on culturable land. The total outturn of teak by departmental agency fell from 91,056 tons to 89,783 tons, but part of this decrease is only nominal, as last year's figures were swollen by a change in the system of delivery. Good progress was made with training works for passing logs over shallows in the streams and rivers of the Tharrawaddy District. There was also considerable activity in the departmental supply of timber other than teak for the Munitions Board, and the total output by Government agency including teak rose from 100,186 tons to 106,745 tons. Departmental sales of teak realized Rs. 32'67 lakhs and of other woods Rs. 2'17 lakhs, as compared with Rs. 27'27 lakhs, and Rs. 1'49 lakhs, respectively, in the previous year. The

**CHAP. IV.—
PRODUCTION AND
DISTRIBUTION.**

market price of teak in Rangoon rose considerably on the cessation of hostilities, but outside Rangoon the value of inferior logs sold in large quantities decreased. The quantity of teak supplied direct to the British Admiralty rose from 500 tons to 2,900 tons, and the conversion of another 1,300 tons in compliance with a further indent was completed by the end of the year. The Royal Indian Marine was supplied with approximately 300 tons of teak during the year, the Eastern Bengal State Railway purchased 1,500 tons, and 225 tons were sold to various Indian firms for shipbuilding purposes. The supply of packing cases for rubber was handed over to private enterprise. The outturn of teak by lessees was 68 per cent. of the whole outturn of teak for the Province and amounted to 221,680 tons, or 55,216 tons less than in the previous year. The decrease is due to certain firms keeping their outturn low, owing to want of freight to India, and the figures are abnormal. The floating season was, on the whole, an average one.

Teak logs extracted by lessees, but on which they did not wish to pay royalty, realized Rs. 190 lakhs, or Rs. 41 per ton, as compared with Rs. 86 lakh, or Rs. 25 per ton last year. Owing to the reduced requirements of the Munitions Board, the quantity of timber extracted by licensees fell slightly from 398,741 tons to 391,679 tons. Their outturn of fuel, however, increased largely from 705,703 tons to 940,002 tons, chiefly owing to the continued scarcity of coal. For the same reason departmental sales of fuel, mainly to the Burma Railway Company, also rose from 52,982 tons to 239,409 tons. Insignificant quantities of timber and fuel were also extracted by grantees and right-holders, their combined extraction being less than 5 per cent. of the total outturn in the case of timber and less than 4 per cent. in the case of fuel.

The total provincial outturn of teak from forests of all kinds fell from 378,323 tons to 326,567 tons; of reserved timber (other than teak) rose from 111,216 tons to 109,559 tons; of unreserved timber fell from 349,332 tons to 342,795 tons; and of fuel rose from 808,503 tons to 1,236,599 tons.

Finance.

102. The financial results of the Forest administration are shewn in Chapter V of this Report in the section entitled "Revenue and Finance other than Imperial."

Mines and Quarries.

**The Indian
Mines Act.**

103. The only districts to which the Indian Mines Act at present applies are the Mergui, Ruby Mines, Tavoy and Thaton Districts, but a proposal is under consideration to extend the Act to the Northern Shan States in order to bring the mines of the Burma Mines Company at Nanta within its purview. In the Tavoy District, which is by far the most important from the mining point of view, the number of registered tin and wolfram mines fell from 140 to 102, owing to more careful classification and the exclusion of surface mines. Greater skill was shown in the exploitation of ores, housing and sanitary conditions improved, and the beneficial effects of the Act were increasingly felt. A preliminary geological map of the district was published during the year.

There are no Mining Advisory Boards constituted under section 9 of the Act, but the Tavoy Board, established by executive instructions in 1917, continued to do useful work. Besides advising on various technical matters of importance, it continued to interest itself in Mining Education, and a second series of lectures was delivered by various specialists under its auspices.

Mining employees in common with other sections of the population suffered severely from influenza and malaria; dysentery and lung affections were also prevalent. Sanitary conditions, however, improved, better designed coolie barracks were erected, and more attention was paid to the supply of pure drinking water and of proper latrine accommodation. Wages remained much the same as in the previous year, payment being made on the tribute system according to results. The tribute rate in the larger mines of the Tavoy District averaged Re. 1 per viss, while in the Mergui District it varied from Re. 1-9-0 to Re. 1-12-0 per viss. In the latter district daily wages were paid at the rates of 12 annas without food and 10 annas with food. The wages of skilled and semi-skilled employees, such as clerks, storekeepers, mechanics and supervisors, continued to

rule very high. In the Tavoy District mining development was somewhat hampered by paucity of labour. The shortage was to some extent met by the importation of Chinese, by the influx of Indians of every kind and by the introduction of Burmese convicts on ticket-of-leave.

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PROSPECTING
AND
DISTRICTION.

The Chinese were the mainstay of the mine-owners; but, like the Indians, many of them leave the country once they have reached a certain standard of prosperity. The Burmese convicts proved more successful than was anticipated and on the whole did well. Women and children were nearly all employed on the surface, and their employment is due to the customary tributary system under which whole families share in the work of production. In the opinion of the Inspector of Mines the conditions of their employment were entirely free from objection. There were 3 serious accidents in the Ruby Mines, but the Company was in no way responsible. In the Tavoy District there were 47 accidents causing 28 deaths and 19 cases of serious injury. Of the 28 deaths, 3 were due to underground falls, 15 to surface falls, while 6 men were killed by falling trees, 2 were drowned and one man fell into an engine room. The dangers from underground mining are steadily decreasing, but surface operations, in soft ground are now carried on at deeper levels and are becoming more dangerous. In all the cases enquired into by the Inspector of Mines the management was exonerated, as the deaths were due to pure accident or carelessness. There were two prosecutions for breaches of the rules prohibiting the firing of shots by unauthorised persons.

104. During the calendar year 1918, the number of new applications for prospecting licenses dealt with was 669, of which 242 were granted, 190 refused and 237 withdrawn. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 528, 109, 150 and 169. The number of applications for renewal of prospecting leases dealt with was 185, of which 159 were granted, 13 refused and 13 withdrawn. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 194, 171, 12 and 11. The number of applications for mining leases dealt with was 8, of which 5 were granted, 3 refused and none withdrawn. The figures for the previous year were 16, 12, 2 and 2. These figures illustrate the continued activity in prospecting and in mining in the Province, more especially in the Thaton, Amherst, Tavoy and Mergui Districts and in the Southern Shan States. A remarkable increase is also noticeable in the Yamethin District, where 91 new applications for prospecting licenses were dealt with, of which 34 were granted, 30 refused and 27 withdrawn as compared with only 3 applications dealt with in the previous year. Of the five mining leases, two were granted for all minerals except oil and three for mineral oil. At the end of the calendar year 346 applications for prospecting licenses and 14 for mining leases were pending, the corresponding figures for the previous year being 166 and 17, respectively.

New con-
cessions.

105. Petroleum was produced in the seven districts of Magwe, Minbu, Pakokku, Upper Chindwin, Thayetmyo, Kyaukpyu and Akyab, or an increase of one district, the Upper Chindwin, as compared with the previous years. The quantity produced in the last four districts was, however, insignificant, and their combined output was less than 600,000 gallons, towards which the Upper Chindwin District contributed 473,800 gallons. The total output for the Province rose from 272.79 million gallons to 274.83 million gallons and its value from Rs. 1.58 lakhs to Rs. 1.62 lakhs. The yield from the Yenangyaung field in the Magwe District increased by over 26 million gallons to 204 million gallons, owing to increased activity on the part of the Burma Oil Company with the object of forestalling their rivals in reaching the deeper oil sands. The yield in the Minbu District also increased by over one million gallons to nearly five million gallons, but, owing to natural causes and to shortage of skilled labour, production from the Singu field in the Magwe District and from the Yenangyat field in the Pakokku District fell by over 24 million gallons and nearly 2 million gallons to 61 million gallons and 4.74 million gallons, respectively. The number of men engaged in the winning of petroleum in the Magwe District, which is by far the most important centre of the industry, was 9,333, or a slight increase over the previous year's

Petroleum.

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PRODUCTION AND
DISTRI-
BUTION.
Wolfram.

figure. Prospecting operations in certain portions of the Pakòkku District were continued, but without meeting with any appreciable success.

106. The total output of wolfram fell from 4,529 tons to 4,443 tons, but its value rose from Rs. 91.71 lakhs to Rs. 1,06.98 lakhs. The great bulk of the ore was, as usual, obtained in the Tavoy District, which produced 3,636 tons as compared with 3,697 tons in the previous year. The output from the Thabon District also fell slightly from 107 to 96 tons, and that from the Southern Shan States from 356 to 334 tons, while the Mergui District slightly increased its production from 368 to 377 tons. Wolfram mining employed 11,390 men, 644 women and 212 children as compared with 11,417 men, 720 women and 298 children in the previous year.

Rubies,
Sapphires
and Spinel.

107. The progressive decline in the output of rubies, sapphires and spinels from the mines in the Ruby Mines District continued during the year of report, and the total production amounted to only 164,115 carats, or little more than half of that of the year 1914. The output in the previous year was 198,200 carats worth Rs. 7.77 lakhs, while the value of this year's output was only Rs. 6.05 lakhs. Though the number of men employed at the mines rose from 1,245 to 1,300, the value of the finds was smaller and work was impeded by influenza. The amount of rubies produced was 101,637 carats worth Rs. 5.17 lakhs, of sapphires 34,949 carats worth Rs. .84 lakh and of spinels 27,529 carats worth Rs. .04 lakh.

Other
minerals.

108. Argentiferous lead ores are found almost exclusively in the mines worked by the Burma Mines Company at Bawdwin in the Northern Shan States and the output of both silver and lead increased considerably. The yield of lead rose from 16,963 tons valued at Rs. 59.62 lakhs to 18,995 tons worth Rs. 67.57 lakhs, and that of silver from 1,580,557 ounces valued at Rs. 35.56 lakhs to 1,970,614 ounces worth Rs. 44.34 lakhs.

The price of tin increased and there was much activity in tin mining during the year. The output of block tin in the Mergui District fell from 141 to 101 tons, though its value increased from Rs. 4.19 lakhs to Rs. 4.22 lakhs. On the other hand, the quantity of tin ore extracted rose from 623 tons to 733 tons and its value increased from Rs. 10.03 lakhs to Rs. 13.61 lakhs. The mine at Mawchi in the State of Bawlaik in the Southern Shan States yielded 334 tons, or slightly less than the previous year, but there were substantial increases in both the Amherst and Tavoy Districts.

There was a small decrease from 28,763 tons to 26,680 tons in the quantity of iron ore produced and its value fell from Rs. 18.958 to Rs. 13.982. The output in the Mandalay District was only 3,367 tons against 18,850 tons in 1917, the decrease being due to a scarcity of carts and labour. On the other hand, the output in the Northern Shan States rose from 9,913 tons to 23,313 tons, owing to increased activity on the part of the Burma Mines Company.

The output of amber fell from 59 cwts. to 3 cwts., owing to absence of demand and to the Laisai Mines in unadministered territory not being worked in the year of report.

There was a decrease from 3,961 cwts. to 3,203 cwts. in the quantity of jadeite produced and its value also fell from Rs. 4.34 lakhs to Rs. 3.78 lakhs. The decrease in output is partly due to the absence of any exceptionally good finds and partly to the increased difficulty of extraction. The pits have now reached a considerable depth, and, owing to faulty timbering in the underground galleries, frequent collapses occur.

The Burma Gold Dredging Company worked for only three months of the year of report and then went into liquidation. Consequently, the quantity of gold produced fell from 1,079 ounces to 171 ounces, and that of platinum, which is found in association with the gold deposits worked by the same Company in the Myitkyina District, also declined from 3.79 ounces to .31 ounce.

No bismuth, antimony or zinc ore were extracted during the year of report, though small quantities of the two first mentioned minerals were produced in the previous year. There has been no production of zinc since the year 1916.

There was no output of molybdenite from the mines in the Yamèthin District and a decreased output from the mines in the Tavoy District, with the result that the total production of this mineral fell from 33 cwts. valued at Rs. 11,452 to 3 cwts. worth Rs. 825.

Cross, F.M.
Production and
Distribution.

109. The output of granite was 182,892 tons valued at Rs. 2'34 lakhs as compared with 255,290 tons worth Rs. 2'81 lakhs in 1917. Production in the Thaton District decreased by 106,614 tons, owing to smaller demands made by the Public Works Department and owing to trade depression. The quantity of laterite extracted also declined by nearly 125,000 tons from last year's figure of 286,924 tons, the decrease being due to restricted expenditure by public bodies and by Government on roads. The output of other miscellaneous varieties of stone, including road metal, sandstone, schist, soling stone and shingle required for roads and buildings, rose from 265,212 tons to 353,593 tons. There were increases of 16,000 tons of sandstone in the Amherst District, of 83,147 tons of stone in the Thaton District, and of 28,475 tons of ballast stone in the Northern Shan States, and decreases of 32,000 tons of schist and shingle in the Tavoy District and of 28,000 tons of sandstone in the Meiktila District. The quantity of limestone produced was 208,394 tons, or much the same as in the previous year. The number of persons engaged in quarries fell from 4,699 to 3,948. The total provincial output of all kinds of stone required for roads and buildings fell slightly from approximately 1'1 million tons to 1 million tons, but its value rose slightly from Rs. 10'71 lakhs to Rs. 10'79 lakhs.

Quarry and
clay.

The output of clay for pottery more than doubled during the year, owing to the inclusion for the first time of figures for the Sandoway and Upper Chindwin Districts. The nominal output was returned as 26,271 tons, but no great reliance can be placed on these figures, as the clay is used principally in village industries and no accurate records are kept.

110. The receipts from fees, rents and royalties on petroleum, rubies, jade and amber fell from Rs. 36'95 lakhs to Rs. 34'82 lakhs. The decrease is entirely due to the accidental circumstance that a sum of Rs. 3'26 lakhs due from oil companies in the Magwe District was received too late for incorporation in the accounts of the year of report. In the Thayetmyo District there was an increase of Rs. 10,106 and water difficulties in the Minhla field in this district are said to have been overcome. There was a reduction of Rs. 24,328 in the Pakokku District, owing to the decreased yield of the Yenangyat oilfields. The main feature of the oil-winning industry has been the further exploitation of the deep sands of the Bemè Reserve in the Yenangyaung field of the Magwe District. Royalty on oil was collected for the first time in the Upper Chindwin District and amounted to Rs. 11,908. There was considerable activity in this district; a pipe-line approximately 30 miles in length and three tanks with a total capacity of over 1½ million gallons were completed during the year.

Revenue
from mines
and
quarries.

In the Myitkyina District the revenue derived from fees on licenses to collect royalty on jadestone remained practically the same, namely Rs. '95 lakh. Royalties in the Ruby Mines District increased from Rs. 2'44 lakhs to Rs. 3'27 lakhs, mainly owing to a rush of miners to two localities, where sapphires of high value were found. Receipts from fees, rents and royalties on other minerals rose from Rs. 3'66 lakhs to the record figure of Rs. 4'40 lakhs. The two tin and wolfram producing districts of Tavoy and Mergui both showed large increases and accounted for Rs. 3'60 lakhs of the total revenue received under this head. There was an increase of Rs. 5,000 in the Yamèthin District, owing to numerous applications being made for licenses to prospect for wolfram. The wolfram-mining industry, however, received a severe set-back when the Munitions Board in England after the conclusion of the armistice withdrew its undertaking to pay a fixed price per unit. The Home Government have called for estimates and are paying compensation for the loss caused to wolfram miners by the withdrawal of this guarantee.

The rent received from the steatite mines at Sidoktaya in the Minbu District increased further by Rs. 1,502.

Manufactures.

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FABRIC-
TION AND
DRESSING
STOW,
Principal
Industries.

III. The great bulk of the indigenous population is agricultural, and the important manufacturing and transport industries derive their supplies of labour to a very large extent from the immigrant Indian population. No new industries were established during the year, and the principal existing industries continued to be rice-milling, saw-milling, petroleum-refining and the transport industries. Of these, rice-milling was by far the most important and accounted for more than half the number of registered factories and the four industries between them claimed more than 80 per cent. of the total number of operatives employed. During the year the Provincial Art Officer made a detailed investigation of the general conditions under which the village industries of lacquer-making, pottery and mat-weaving are carried on, and made certain proposals for their encouragement and improvement. An interesting result of the investigations was the rediscovery of the lost art of producing red-figured black pottery similar to the ancient Grecian black pottery. Other industries, such as cigar-making, umbrella manufacture and domestic weaving, presented no unusual features, but there was some revival of the boat-building industry in the Pakākkū District.

Factories.

III.2. The total number of factories on the register at the end of the year was 549, or an increase of 13 as compared with the year 1917, but 37 of these registered factories were closed throughout the year. Twenty-six new factories were brought on the register, namely one tannery, one engineering works, one oil mill, two chemical works, one petroleum refinery, one foundry and dockyard, fourteen rice-mills and five saw-mills. The registration of thirteen factories was cancelled, of which eight were rice-mills, three were saw mills, one was a printing press and one a tile factory. Five rice-mills were burnt down during the year. The average daily number of persons employed in factories rose from 68,435, of whom 4,845 were women, to 70,918, of whom 5,131 were women. The number of factories allowing an interval after six hours' work rose from 241 to 245; those exempted under Part C of Schedule I of the Act decreased by 2 to 239, two factories were worked on a system of shifts and the rest made other arrangements. There were no great changes in the rates of wages, but labour was very difficult to get in the cotton-ginning districts, partly owing to the high prices received by cultivators for their cotton and partly owing to plague which made the usual hands unwilling to come into the large towns. The year was generally an unhealthy one, owing to the influenza epidemic, on account of which some mills had to shut down entirely for a few days, but the health of the operatives was certainly no worse, and was possibly better, than that of persons otherwise employed in the vicinity. Though plague interfered with the supply of labour in the cotton districts, there was not much actual mortality amongst the operatives.

The fencing of machinery improved, but continual vigilance is necessary to keep up the standard. It is frequently allowed to become dilapidated and is only replaced when fresh orders to do so are issued. The total number of accidents reported during the year again fell from 332, of which 16 were fatal, 77 serious and 239 minor, to 294, of which 20 were fatal, 91 serious and 183 minor. Of the 20 fatal accidents, three were due to the collapse of a brick wall, one to the collapse of the earth-work of a tank, three to falls of wax bags, one to an attack by a *must* mill elephant, two to falls and two to throw-backs of pieces of timber from circular saws. The brick wall that collapsed was that of a paddy godown. A Committee was formed to enquire into the strength and design of such structures and is at present considering the question. The number of persons prosecuted for breaches of the Factories Act rose from 7 to 11, of whom 10 were convicted, one case being dropped owing to the death of the accused. The prosecutions were mainly for not keeping mill premises clean and for failure to fence engine flywheels securely. Of the 512 factories actually working, 284, including all the more important factories, were visited by the Inspector, and a certain number of others that were not visited by the Inspector, were inspected by District Magistrates. The housing of operatives was, on the whole, satisfactory, and mills were kept as clean as can reasonably be expected. Improvements in the

ventilation of rice-mills are required, but had to remain in abeyance, owing to the difficulty in obtaining material from England. No overcrowding was noticed in the coolie lines of factories, but it was found necessary to prosecute the managers of three rice-mills for keeping their premises in an insanitary condition.

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Protec-
tion and
Distri-
bution.

Trade.

113. Owing to the economic disturbance and the general disorganization of industry and shipping caused by the war, any comparison of the value of the trade of the Province during the year of report with that of previous years is of comparatively little value. It is only possible to say that, though the trade of the Province decreased substantially in volume, it increased in value from Rs. 58.63 lakhs to Rs. 74.27 lakhs, owing to the much higher level of prices. The rise in prices was much more marked in the case of imports than in that of exports. If Rs. 100 be taken as the price of eleven representative imported articles during the three years ending 1900-01 and if due allowance is made for the relative importance of the selected articles, the figure for the year of report would be 276, or 24 per cent. in excess of that of 1917-18. If the same comparison be made in the case of ten representative exports, the index figure would be only 36, as compared with 123 in the previous year. Cotton twist and yarn, grey cotton piece-goods, white cotton piece-goods, woollen piece-goods, iron and steel and soap, with index figures of 404, 489, 433, 387, 379 and 372, respectively, show the greatest appreciation amongst imported staples, but all rose in price during the year. Raw cotton, raw hides, pig lead and teak wood, with index figures of 362, 232, 276 and 181, respectively, are the only staple exports exhibiting an appreciation at all comparable with that of imports, and in the case of the two last-mentioned articles the index figure even declined slightly during the year of report.

Maritime
trade :
total value
and revenue.

Other main features of the year were the large purchases of rice and beans made on behalf of the Royal Commission on Wheat Supplies, the introduction of a food control in India, in which Burma rice played an important part, and the peculiar circumstances of the cotton piece-goods market, in which the anomalous position arose of the retail price of goods being actually less than their replacement value either in the United Kingdom or India. Tonnage was less scarce than in the previous year and many restrictions imposed on account of the war on import and export trade were removed after the signing of the armistice. Excluding Government stores, the total value of private trade increased by 27 per cent. from Rs. 57.16 lakhs to Rs. 72.74 lakhs, the relative proportions of foreign, Indian and interport trade being 49, 46 and 5 per cent., respectively. Private trade with foreign ports increased in value from Rs. 30.60 lakhs to Rs. 35.56 lakhs, with Indian ports from Rs. 23.40 lakhs to Rs. 33.54 lakhs, and between Provincial ports from Rs. 3.16 lakhs to Rs. 3.64 lakhs. In the foreign import trade, a prominent feature was an increase of roughly 76 per cent. in the value of importations from Japan, these amounting during the year of report to Rs. 2.41 lakhs, or about 22 per cent. of the total private foreign imports. The value of imports from Hongkong, Egypt and the Straits Settlements also increased, while that of imports from the United Kingdom, the United States, Holland, Spain and Java decreased. The total value of exports, excluding re-exports, increased by roughly 20 per cent., mainly owing to larger exports of rice to Europe on behalf of the Royal Commission, and to Japan, and of raw cotton to the United Kingdom. The value of imports and exports of private merchandise from Indian ports advanced by 54 and 36 per cent., respectively, and there was an increase of 15 per cent. in the value of interport private trade. The value of Government stores in the foreign trade declined by Rs. 16.78 lakhs to Rs. 8.84 lakhs, and in the coasting trade by Rs. 55 lakh to Rs. 13.90 lakhs, but in the Indian trade it rose by Rs. 23 lakhs to Rs. 1.30 lakhs.

The total gross customs duty collected increased by 10 per cent. from Rs. 1.79 lakhs to Rs. 1.97 lakhs, and the net duty from Rs. 1.76 lakhs to Rs. 1.91 lakhs. Import duty, excluding duty on salt, showed a general increase of 12 per cent., owing to the enhancement of values, and rose from Rs. 86 lakhs to Rs. 96 lakhs. Salt revenue declined by 5 per cent. from Rs. 15.44 lakhs to Rs. 14.70

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tion and
Distribution.

lakhs. Export duty, owing to large shipments to Europe, Java and the Far East, increased by 11 per cent. from Rs. 78 lakhs to Rs. 87 lakhs. The gross duty realized at Rangoon, which represents 89 per cent. of the total collections in the Province, exceeded that realized in 1917-18 by 8 per cent., and the net revenue increased by Rs. 10.66 lakhs, or 7 per cent., to Rs. 171.04 lakhs. At the six subordinate ports of Bassein, Akyab, Moulmein, Tavoy, Mergui and Victoria Point the gross revenue collections increased from Rs. 15.81 lakhs to Rs. 21.09 lakhs, or 34 per cent., owing to a substantial rise in collections of export duty, which included Rs. 11.36 lakhs and Rs. 1.37 lakhs collected at Rangoon on rice shipped at Bassein and Akyab, respectively. The net revenue collected at these six subordinate ports rose from Rs. 14.67 lakhs to Rs. 19.64 lakhs. The increase was shared by all ports, except Tavoy, which showed an insignificant decrease of Rs. .03 lakh.

Rangoon
trade; total
figures.

114. The principal commodities imported into Rangoon from foreign countries during the year were in order of importance: cotton manufactures (Rs. 2.85 lakhs), metals (Rs. 1.53 lakhs), sugar (Rs. .56 lakhs), silk (Rs. .46 lakhs), matches (Rs. .35 lakhs), machinery (Rs. .31 lakhs), hardware (Rs. .29 lakhs), liquors (Rs. .28 lakhs), tobacco (Rs. .27 lakhs), provisions (Rs. .22 lakhs) and paper (Rs. .21 lakhs). These eleven commodities formed 70 per cent. of the total import trade with foreign countries, and no other article was of sufficient importance to form 2 per cent. of the trade. A comparison with last year's figures shows that metals increased in value from Rs. 1.02 lakhs to Rs. 1.53 lakhs, that matches have risen from the eleventh to the fifth place, and that paper has replaced soap in the list; but otherwise there are no important changes. The total value of all goods imported into Rangoon from foreign countries rose slightly from Rs. 9.75 lakhs to Rs. 10.48 lakhs as compared with an average of Rs. 12.30 lakhs for the five years ending 1914-15. The goods most largely imported from India were in order of importance: manufactured cotton (Rs. 3.01 lakhs), manufactured jute (Rs. 2.99 lakhs), cotton twist and yarn (Rs. 1.81 lakhs), spices (Rs. .70 lakhs), grain and pulse (Rs. .68 lakhs), provisions (Rs. .61 lakhs), coal (Rs. .61 lakhs), oils (Rs. .46 lakhs), tobacco (Rs. .42 lakhs) and fish (Rs. .30 lakhs), and these articles formed 83 per cent. of the total imports from India. As compared with the previous year, the total value of Indian imports rose from Rs. 9.28 lakhs to Rs. 14.03 lakhs, mainly owing to the value of each of the three most extensively imported articles, namely manufactured cotton, manufactured jute and cotton yarn, having approximately doubled during the year.

The principal goods exported from Rangoon to foreign countries were in order of importance: husked and unhusked rice (Rs. 11.93 lakhs), pulse, flour and grain other than rice (Rs. 1.84 lakhs), raw cotton (Rs. 1.61 lakhs), paraffin-wax (Rs. 1.05 lakhs), raw hides and skins (Rs. .62 lakhs), wood and timber (Rs. .58 lakhs) and pig lead (Rs. .43 lakhs). No other commodity exported reached a proportion of 2 per cent. of the total export trade with foreign countries. The main difference from the previous year was the greatly increased importance of the exports of raw cotton, raw hides and wood and timber, all of which approximately doubled in value in the year of report. The principal articles in the export trade with India were: husked and unhusked rice (Rs. 7.31 lakhs), mineral oils excluding paraffin-wax (Rs. 5.60 lakhs), wood including manufactured wood (Rs. 1.01 lakhs), raw cotton (Rs. .72 lakhs), metals (Rs. .49 lakhs) and grain and pulse other than rice (Rs. .38 lakhs). As compared with the previous year the principal change is that rice has resumed the first place in the list and has recovered from last year's abnormally low figure. The total value of all goods exported from Rangoon to foreign countries rose from Rs. 16.82 lakhs to 20.01 lakhs as compared with an average of Rs. 17.73 lakhs for the five years ending 1914-15. The value of exports to India also rose from Rs. 11.86 lakhs to Rs. 17.31 lakhs.

The share of Rangoon in the total foreign seaborne trade of the Province fell from 87 per cent. to 86; but in the Indian trade rose from 90 to 93; and in the interport trade from 41 to 42.

115. The total value of cotton goods imported into Rangoon from India and foreign countries rose from Rs. 5.60 lakhs to Rs. 7.67 lakhs, or an increase of 31 per cent., and this class of article represented 30 per cent. of the aggregate value of private merchandise imported into the Province. Foreign imports of twist and yarn mostly came from the United Kingdom and amounted to 758,611 lbs., valued at Rs. 19 lakhs, or an increase of 40 per cent. in volume and 98 per cent. in value. Indian twist and yarn also improved by 19 per cent. in quantity and 95 per cent. in value. The state of the market in cotton piece-goods was abnormal, the Province was over-stocked, and though prices were high, they were yet less than those asked by manufacturers. This anomalous position led to the entry into the market of speculators, who bought largely, but were unable to hold their purchases, with the result that local prices fell considerably, to the relief of markets in the districts. Foreign piece-goods declined in quantity from 64 million to 41 million yards, and also in value, but to a much smaller extent, from Rs. 2.55 lakhs to Rs. 1.34 lakhs. The principal decrease was in goods supplied by the United Kingdom, while imports from Japan increased considerably. Indian piece-goods increased from 51 million to 63 million yards valued at Rs. 2.88 lakhs, equivalent to an increase of 24 per cent. in volume and 81 per cent. in value. Imports of hosiery rose from Rs. 7.46 lakhs to Rs. 21.2 lakhs, of which Japan claimed Rs. 9.10 lakhs and the United Kingdom Rs. 2.15 lakhs. Sewing thread decreased slightly in quantity, but rose in value by Rs. 1.00 lakhs to Rs. 9.96 lakhs. There was a substantial decline in the importation of blankets, the value falling by Rs. 3.16 lakhs to Rs. .86 lakh.

Though trade in silk was less in volume than in the previous year, its value increased by 17 per cent., from Rs. 39.41 lakhs to Rs. 46.05 lakhs. The quantity of raw silk imported fell by 17 per cent. to 49,713 lbs., but its value rose from Rs. 3.49 lakhs to Rs. 4.58 lakhs. China and the Straits Settlements contributed more, but Siam much less. Goods made of silk, mixed with other materials, came mainly from the United Kingdom, and increased slightly both in quantity and in value. Pure silk piece-goods fell by 15 per cent. in quantity to 1.85 million yards, but increased by 15 per cent. in value from Rs. 34.43 lakhs to Rs. 39.54 lakhs. Japan's share in this particular trade represented 93 per cent. of the total value.

Imports of woollen goods increased in value from Rs. 11.29 lakhs to Rs. 15.32 lakhs, mainly owing to increased arrivals of piece-goods, yarn and knitting wool. The United Kingdom's share of this trade was Rs. 11.31 lakhs as compared with Rs. 9.87 lakhs in 1917-18. Apparel, excluding hosiery, rose in value by 42 per cent. to Rs. 13.19 lakhs, of which the United Kingdom contributed Rs. 8.17 lakhs and Japan Rs. 3.60 lakhs. There was a slight increase in the value of haberdashery and millinery from Rs. 7.82 lakhs to Rs. 10.75 lakhs; the United Kingdom and Japan being again the chief sources of supply.

Imports of boots and shoes dropped to 101,172 pairs valued at Rs. 3.60 lakhs, equivalent to a decrease of 48 per cent. in quantity and 37 per cent. in value. Restricted arrivals from the United Kingdom, which is the main source of supply, accounted for the fall. In this trade also Japan made progress and sent 28,137 pairs worth Rs. .28 lakh as compared with 20,004 pairs worth Rs. .13 lakh in the previous year.

The total imports of metals and ores increased by 17 per cent. in quantity to 21,453 tons, and by 50 per cent. in value to Rs. 1.53 lakhs. The increase is mainly due to larger arrivals and enhanced values of iron sheets, plates, pipes and tubes from the United Kingdom. Imports of copper and tin improved but those of zinc or spelter declined.

The value of the imports of hardware increased by 6 per cent. to Rs. 39.13 lakhs. Implements and tools came mainly from the United Kingdom, and showed an increase of Rs. 2.47 lakhs, or 58 per cent. in value. There were also slight increases in enamelled ironware from Japan, and in lamps from the United States. Machinery showed no change in value, and imports of railway plant and rolling stock declined further.

Provisions and oilman's stores fell by 20 per cent. in value from Rs. 26.98 lakhs to Rs. 21.58 lakhs, which is the lowest figure on record. The decline

Chart IV—
Production and
Distribution,
Rangoon
Import Trade.

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PRODUCTION AND
DISTRIBUTION.

was due to restricted importations from the United States and the United Kingdom, whose supplies were worth Rs. 1.71 lakhs and Rs. 5.81 lakhs as compared with Rs. 6.64 lakhs and Rs. 8.06 lakhs, respectively, in the preceding year.

Imports of fish, excluding canned fish, decreased in quantity, but increased in value from Rs. 41.91 lakhs to Rs. 52.03 lakhs. Foreign imports, mainly dry salted fish from the Straits Settlements, fell by 7 per cent. in volume, but rose by 10 per cent. in value, and the coasting trade also showed a decrease of 10 per cent. in quantity and an increase of 28 per cent. in value.

Imports of salt rose by 40 per cent. in volume to 33,976 tons and by 23 per cent. in value to Rs. 18.70 lakhs. Shipping conditions favoured the importation of Port Said Salt, of which there were eight consignments aggregating 20,790 tons as against none in the previous year. On the other hand, a slightly smaller supply was received, both from England and Aden, and no Spanish salt whatever was imported as against 10,499 tons in 1917-18.

The balance in bond at the end of the year was 12,960 tons as compared with 23,581 tons at the end of the previous year, the decline being due to the reluctance of dealers to hold large stocks, with more regular supplies and cheaper freights in prospect. At the commencement of the year, the prices of English, Spanish, Aden and Port Said salt were Rs. 161, Rs. 157, Rs. 154 and Rs. 152 per 1,000 viss (3,600 lbs) and at the end Rs. 147, Rs. 158, Rs. 145 and Rs. 132, respectively. Imports of Burma-made salt into Rangoon increased substantially to 12,278 tons or 6,976 tons more than in 1917-18. The year opened with prices varying between Rs. 110 and Rs. 130, and after a rise to Rs. 150 in December, it closed at between Rs. 115 and Rs. 125 per 1,000 viss.

The total value of the imports of sugar declined by 10 per cent. to Rs. 55.65 lakhs, but increased by 2 per cent. in quantity to 401,027 cwts. Imports from Java fell considerably, but this was more than counterbalanced by larger supplies from the Straits Settlements. No sugar was received from Japan and very little from Hongkong. Imported liquors shewed a further decline of 27 per cent. in quantity, but the value rose by 9 per cent. to Rs. 28.45 lakhs. Ale, beer and porter again fell by 10 per cent. in volume and 20 per cent. in value, the decrease being shared between the United Kingdom and Japan. The quantity of spirits imported remained approximately the same at 147,000 gallons, but their value rose by 25 per cent. to Rs. 20.40 lakhs. Increased imports of brandy from France and the United Kingdom and of "shamshoo" from China and Hongkong were counterbalanced by decreases in other varieties. The imports of foreign wine were insignificant and decreased both in quantity and value. The total quantity of all kinds of liquor imported was 330,867 gallons, or roughly only one-third of the imports of the year 1914-15.

The combined foreign and coasting imports of tobacco fell by 18 per cent. in volume and by 8 per cent. in value. Foreign imports of tobacco, manufactured and unmanufactured, declined by Rs. 2.51 lakhs to Rs. 27.50 lakhs, but the value of coasting imports of unmanufactured tobacco rose slightly by Rs. .25 lakh to Rs. 37.09 lakhs, though the quantity decreased by nearly 3 million pounds to approximately 13 million pounds. Cigarettes from foreign countries fell in value by Rs. 2.68 lakhs to Rs. 25.89 lakhs and those of Indian manufacture by Rs. .34 lakh to Rs. 2.82 lakhs.

There were practically no importations of fuel oil or kerosene and there was a marked decrease under this head of 86 per cent. in quantity and 55 per cent. in value to 103,643 gallons valued at Rs. 4.70 lakhs. The value of imported motor cars and motor cycles fell by 72 per cent. to Rs. 2.18 lakhs, owing to the issue of orders prohibiting their importation.

Owing to larger supplies of explosives from the United Kingdom the value of the imports of arms, ammunition and military stores increased by Rs. 3.48 lakhs to Rs. 6.11 lakhs. The number of imported firearms dropped from 922 to 590, of which the United States supplied 395 and the United Kingdom 150.

Imports of foreign coal increased substantially from 7,095 tons to 12,362 tons, the bulk of which was supplied by the United Kingdom, Japan and New South Wales. Arrivals of Indian coal on the other hand dropped further by 36,808

Matches, principally from Japan, rose from 1·6 million gross of boxes valued at Rs. 21·76 lakhs to 2·1 million gross of boxes valued at Rs. 34·74 lakhs. Paper and pasteboard advanced by Rs. 6·98 lakhs to Rs. 21·48 lakhs, while soap and parts of ships declined by Rs. 10·74 lakhs and Rs. 4·48 lakhs to Rs. 14·03 lakhs and Rs. 17·07 lakhs, respectively.

Chart. III.—
Products
from and
Exports to
India.

116. The combined exports of husked and unhusked rice from all the ports in Burma (excluding interportal trade) amounted to 2,487,171 tons valued at Rs. 24,14 lakhs as compared with 2,058,631 tons valued at Rs. 18,53 lakhs in the previous year. Exports to foreign countries increased from 1,513,359 tons to 1,642,057 tons in quantity and from Rs. 13,53 lakhs to Rs. 16,42 lakhs in value. Shipments to the United Kingdom fell from 522,815 tons to 261,167 tons, but there were large increases in the amounts exported to Japan, France and the Straits Settlements. Exports to India also increased largely from 545,079 tons valued at Rs. 5,00 lakhs to 845,104 tons worth Rs. 8,52 lakhs.

Exports of
rice.

The main feature of the year of report was the purchase of rice for Europe on account of the Royal Commission on Wheat Supplies, no exports to Europe being permitted except on this account. Owing to scarcity of tonnage and large accumulations of stocks, the market during the month of April 1918 was somewhat lifeless, with the quality of rice known as Big Mills specials quoted at Rs. 200 to Rs. 202-8-0 per 100 baskets of 75 lbs. each, and paddy in the vicinity of Rs. 90 per 100 baskets of 46 lbs. each. It remained quiet till about the middle of May, when there was a certain amount of activity, due to enquiries from Calcutta and rumours of the re-entry of Java into the market. July found the market firmer, and the price of rice rose gradually to Rs. 243-8-0 at the beginning of August and to Rs. 273-8-0 about the end of that month, owing to the opening of the Java and Japan markets. The price rose further to Rs. 385 in the middle of September and reached Rs. 415, where it remained until November, when it declined to Rs. 343, owing to restrictions on exports. It then became known that there would be a shortage in the Indian markets and that a Food Controller for India would be appointed. Uncertainty as to the nature of the official action likely to be taken caused speculators to become nervous and the market ruled quiet in December. The policy adopted by the Food Controller was to fix a maximum export price for the new crop on a basis of Rs. 335 for the quality of rice known as Big Mills Specials and to ration the various countries, the bulk of the crop being reserved to meet the strong Indian demand, due both to the failure of the monsoon in India, and to the fact that Indian stocks had been depleted to provide food for soldiers engaged in the war. The market price for new crop rice at the end of January was between Rs. 317 and Rs. 320, but in February prices became easier and sales were freely made to Indian shippers at Rs. 307-8-0 to Rs. 310. In March the market hardened, and at the end of the month, prices were approaching the maximum export prices fixed by the Food Controller.

Exports of rice bran recovered somewhat and rose from 22,115 tons to 38,511 tons, but were still only a quarter of the normal amount, and the average price declined further from Rs. 13 to Rs. 8 per ton.

117. Exports of teak from Rangoon decreased slightly in quantity from 105,143 cubic tons (each of 50 cubic feet) to 104,911 cubic tons, but increased slightly in value from Rs. 1,46 lakhs to Rs. 1,56 lakhs. Increased quantities were exported to the United Kingdom and Ceylon, but only 323 cubic tons went to the United States as against 4,898 cubic tons in the previous year. Shipments to India declined by 15 per cent., both in quantity and in value, owing to insufficiency of freight space. No teak whatever was exported from Moulmein to foreign countries and shipments to India also fell further from 23,479 cubic tons to 11,263 cubic tons. Exports of other woods from the Province to foreign countries and India also fell from 11,672 cubic tons valued at Rs. 8·48 lakhs, to 4,331 cubic tons, worth Rs. 3·45 lakhs. Exports of mineral oil were the highest ever recorded and increased from 138 million gallons, valued at Rs. 4,74 lakhs, to 160 million gallons, worth Rs. 5,92 lakhs. Exports of kerosene to foreign countries

Exports of
other com-
modities.

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DISTRIBUTION.

were, as usual, comparatively unimportant, but keen demand in India led to shipments to that country being the largest yet known. Foreign exports of benzene, benzol, petrol and other motor spirit increased by 19 per cent. in volume and 18 per cent. in value, but exports of petrol to India fell. Exports of other kinds of mineral oil, both to foreign countries and to India, also increased considerably.

The export trade in paraffin-wax was influenced by the comparative abundance or scarcity of tonnage available to different countries, and though there was practically no alteration in the volume of the exports to foreign countries, amounting to 463,116 cwts., valued at Rs. 1.05 lakhs, their distribution between the different countries varied considerably from that of the previous year. Exports to the United Kingdom and South Africa increased, whereas those to the United States, Japan, Australia and Egypt declined. Exports to India advanced by 50 per cent. in volume to 27,014 cwts. and by 56 per cent. in value to Rs. 6.39 lakhs. The increase is attributable to indirect military requirements and to absence of competition from other countries. Exports of candles to foreign countries were valued at Rs. 23.06 lakhs, or much the same as in 1917-18; but shipments to India increased by 55 per cent. in value to Rs. 7.30 lakhs.

The trade in hides and skins showed a substantial increase of 77 per cent. in quantity and 81 per cent. in value. The United Kingdom took 81 per cent. of the total value, which amounted to Rs. 61.94 lakhs. Exports to India declined in value from Rs. 25.72 lakhs to Rs. 18.08 lakhs.

Owing to the high prices received in the previous two years, there was a considerable expansion of cotton cultivation and the yield of the Province was estimated at 78,000 bales of 400 lbs. each, as against an actual yield of 47,700 bales in 1917-18. The combined total of exports to foreign countries and to India increased from 204,871 cwts. valued at Rs. 1.18 lakhs to 273,569 cwts. worth Rs. 2.33 lakhs. Shipments to foreign countries went entirely to the United Kingdom and Japan, whose shares were 61 per cent. and 39 per cent., respectively, as compared with 67 per cent. and 33 per cent. in the preceding year. The total foreign shipments amounted to 191,872 cwts., worth Rs. 1.61 lakhs, or an increase of 49 per cent. in quantity and 128 per cent. in value. Exports to India were the highest yet recorded and aggregated 81,697 cwts. valued at Rs. 71 lakhs.

Shipments of cotton-seed oil declined heavily from 74,840 gallons to 8,444 gallons, but the United Kingdom took 22,964 cwts. of cotton-seed oil-cake as against only 4,000 cwts. in the previous year.

The estimated exportable surplus of *pébyugale* beans, amounting to 105,000 tons of hand-picked beans, was bought up by the Royal Commission on Wheat Supplies in England, and eighty-eight per cent. of the foreign exports of all kinds of beans went to the United Kingdom.

The total exports of rubber from the Province to foreign countries were the highest yet recorded, aggregating 4,149,242 lbs., with a value of Rs. 47 lakhs as compared with 2,634,380 lbs., valued at Rs. 42.60 lakhs, showing an increase of 58 per cent. in quantity and 10 per cent. in value. The average declared value per lb. dropped from Rs. 1-9-1 to Rs. 1-2-1. Practically the whole quantity exported went to the United Kingdom.

The exports of cutch to foreign countries increased by 35 per cent. in quantity and from Rs. 6.44 lakhs to Rs. 10.92 lakhs, or 70 per cent. in value. The United Kingdom took the bulk, but there were also increased shipments to the United States and to France. The value of exports to India declined slightly from Rs. 6.93 lakhs to Rs. 6.81 lakhs.

Only 176 cwts. of shell-lac worth Rs. 24 lakh were exported to the United Kingdom, as compared with 1,912 cwts. valued at Rs. 2.60 lakhs in 1917-18. Shipments of stick-lac to India, however, increased by 2,928 cwts. and Rs. 1.08 lakhs to 18,753 cwts. valued at Rs. 10.49 lakhs.

Exports of pig-lead to foreign countries fell by 1,347 tons and Rs. 8.28 lakhs to 9,222 tons valued at Rs. 42.64 lakhs, or by 13 per cent. in volume and 16 per cent. in value. The United Kingdom took only 349 tons as compared with 4,121 tons in the previous year.

The total quantity of jadestone exported again fell by 345 cwts. to 2,763 cwts., but the value rose slightly by Rs. 57 lakh to Rs. 12'57 lakhs. As in previous years, almost the entire output went to Hongkong.

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PRODUCTION AND
DISTRIBUTION.

Distribution
of Rangoon
trade.

118. In 1913-14, the last complete year before the war, the United Kingdom's share in the foreign trade of Rangoon was 36'51 per cent. of the value of the whole. The figures for 1915-16 and subsequent years are 47'43, 44'40, 44'80 and 36'80. Her share in the import trade fell from 54'50 to 48'78 per cent., and in the export trade from 39'17 to 30'53 per cent. in the year of report. The share of the British Empire in the whole trade of Rangoon fell from 70'96 to 63'52 per cent., in consequence of the decrease in the share of the United Kingdom; and the figures for other parts of the Empire show little change. European countries increased their share of the total trade from 7'29 to 8'18 per cent. Exports to France increased, and imports from Holland and exports to Italy declined in value.

Owing to the remarkable advance made by Japan, Asia's share in the combined export and import trade increased from 14'75 to 21'72 per cent. Japan's share in the import trade increased from 14'07 to 23'03 per cent., in the export trade from 5'89 to 13'75 per cent., and in the total trade from 8'89 to 16'94 per cent. Apart from Japan, the volume of trade with other Asiatic countries was small and its distribution showed little alteration from that of the previous year. Though trade with Portuguese East Africa increased somewhat, Africa's share in the Rangoon trade remained insignificant, and its value did not amount to one per cent. of the total trade of the port.

Trade with America is practically confined to the United States, and a fall from 11'29 to 8'54 per cent. in the value of that country's share of the import trade caused a fall from 6'66 to 5'82 per cent. in America's proportionate share of the combined import and export trade.

The combined trade in private merchandise between Rangoon and India increased considerably in value from Rs. 21,14 lakhs to Rs. 32,16 lakhs. Trade with Bengal rose in value from Rs. 13,46 lakhs to Rs. 19,35 lakhs, with Bombay from Rs. 3,89 lakhs to Rs. 6,88 lakhs and with Madras from Rs. 3,32 lakhs to Rs. 4,73 lakhs.

119. The combined share of the subordinate ports of Akyab, Bassein, Moulmein, Tavoy, Mergui, Victoria Point, Sandoway and Kyaukpyu was 12'92 per cent. of the total trade of the Province as compared with 14'29 per cent. in the previous year. Akyab's share in the foreign trade increased from 31 per cent. to 1'96 per cent., but in other respects the figures for the various ports remained without appreciable alteration.

Subordinate
ports.

120. The interport trade of the Province was conducted mainly between Rangoon and the ports of the Tenasserim Division, and the value of the trade rose by 15 per cent. to Rs. 3'64 lakhs. Both imports and exports increased at every port, except for a slight fall in the negligible imports of Kyaukpyu and for a decrease of Rs. '88 lakh, Rs. '16 lakh and Rs. '12 lakh in the exports of Mergui, Akyab and Bassein, respectively.

Intra-provin-
cial sea-
borne trade.

121. The transfrontier trade between Burma and adjacent foreign countries, such as China and Siam, is recorded with fair accuracy in the north and south of the Province, but no attempt is made to record the trade with Western China, Tongking and Northern Siam between the 19th and 23rd parallels of latitude, owing to the difficulty of establishing recording stations in such remote places.

Transfron-
tier trade;
total trade.

The total value of trade between Burma and China and Siam rose from Rs. 2,53 lakhs to Rs. 3,39 lakhs, or an increase of 34 per cent. The increase took place both in imports and exports, which increased in value by 30 and 38 per cent., respectively. The increase is due partly to improved conditions following the armistice and partly to the higher general level of prices. The whole trade was distributed under the heads merchandise, treasure and timber, in the proportions of 60, 36 and 4 per cent., respectively. No changes in taxes or tolls were made during the year and recording stations remained the same, except that the

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DISTRIBUTION.
China.

station at Kangmōng in the Northern Shan States was shifted to the ferry at Kunlon.

122. In the trade with Western China, imports increased from Rs. 96 lakhs to Rs. 1,32 lakhs, or 37 per cent., and exports from Rs. 91 lakhs to Rs. 1,42 lakhs, or no less than 56 per cent., in spite of the presence of a large gang of dacoits on the Chinese side of the frontier during two months of the open season.

Owing to the high prices and decreased importation by sea of cotton and silk manufactured piece-goods, cotton piece-goods of Chinese manufacture, aggregating 1,283 maunds valued at Rs. 1·09 lakhs, were imported for the first time. Raw silk imports amounted to 6,960 maunds valued at Rs. 55 lakhs, or nearly double the weight and treble the value of the previous year. Hides, although decreasing slightly in weight, owing to the poor quality of the Chinese hides imported, increased in value from Rs. 2·09 lakhs to Rs. 2·27 lakhs, owing to high prices. Exports of raw cotton amounted to 12,612 maunds valued at Rs. 6·98 lakhs, or an increase of 185 per cent. in weight and 336 per cent. in value. Exports of cotton twist and yarn of Indian manufacture also increased to 69,131 maunds worth Rs. 72·19 lakhs, or an increase of 13 per cent. in quantity and 74 per cent. in value. The increased exports of raw cotton and of twist and yarn were due to the keen demand for raw material for the manufacture of clothes to replace high-priced European piece-goods. Exports of the last mentioned accordingly fell to 4,066 maunds worth Rs. 6·87 lakhs, or a decrease of 61 per cent. in quantity and in value. Exports of silver, mainly on account of cash payments for imported silk, increased by Rs. 16·54 lakhs to Rs. 39·14 lakhs. Chinese dollars to the value of Rs. 2·40 lakhs were taken back to China, as an exchange could not be effected with profit. Apart from the articles specifically mentioned above, the chief imports were lac, tea and silver, and the chief exports opium, petroleum, saltfish and jade.

Siam.

123. Trade with Northern Siam decreased in value by 10 per cent. from Rs. 48·40 lakhs to Rs. 43·78 lakhs; exports declined from Rs. 23·25 lakhs to Rs. 16·98 lakhs, and, though imports rose from Rs. 25·15 lakhs to Rs. 26·80 lakhs, this was entirely due to an increase of Rs. 7·91 lakhs in the value of imported teak. The number of elephants imported dropped from 114 to 24. Of exports, apparel fell in value by 54 per cent. to Rs. ·82 lakh, and European piece-goods by 53 per cent. in quantity and 31 per cent. in value to 700 maunds valued at Rs. 2·41 lakhs. European twist and yarn, however, rose in quantity by 9 per cent. and in value by 29 per cent. to 2,201 maunds worth Rs. 3·78 lakhs. The value of silver exported fell from Rs. 11 lakhs to Rs. 5·22 lakhs, owing to less money being required to pay for the purchase of elephants.

Both the import and export trade with Southern Siam increased satisfactorily and their combined value rose by 24 per cent. from Rs. 16·88 lakhs to Rs. 20·87 lakhs. The chief articles of import were cattle, elephants and silk. Both cattle and elephants decreased by half in number and value, but raw silk rose by 200 per cent. in quantity to 1,134 maunds, and by 351 per cent. in value to Rs. 6·32 lakhs. Exports of silver increased from Rs. 2·41 lakhs to Rs. 3·28 lakhs.

Trade with
unadminis-
tered
Kachin
country.

124. Trade with unadministered Kachin country declined by Rs. 11·53 lakhs, or 69 per cent., to Rs. 5·19 lakhs, the fall being due in part to over-trading in the preceding year, and in part to the influenza epidemic, which frightened the Hill Kachins from coming down into the plains. Silver was the chief import from this tract and accounted for Rs. 1·51 lakhs of the total imports of Rs. 2·45 lakhs. The chief exports were cattle, apparel and manufactured cotton.

Trade with
the Shan
States and
Karenis.

125. Trade with the Northern Shan States declined nominally by 18 per cent. from Rs. 8·06 lakhs to Rs. 6·62 lakhs, but the real decrease was greater, as the previous year's figures did not include the value of silver transported by rail. Excluding the figures for silver, the decrease in value amounted to Rs. 2·27 lakhs, or 30 per cent. The value of imports fell by Rs. 84·66 lakhs, or 21 per cent., and, if silver be excluded from consideration, by Rs. 1,41·86 lakhs, or 38 per cent.

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PRODUCTION AND
DISTRIBUTION.

The decrease is due to the Burma Mines Company at Namtu sending away practically no zinc ore during the year of report and imports under this head fell by no less than Rs. 172.49 lakhs to Rs. 12 lakh. Imports of lead from these mines remained nearly the same in quantity, but increased by 29 per cent. in value to Rs. 1,04.57 lakhs. Brass and copper imports, mainly in the form of Chinese cash, declined from 6,195 maunds to 5,106 maunds in quantity and from Rs. 6.14 lakhs to Rs. 5.25 lakhs in value, consequent on the Chinese Government prohibiting the export of coins to foreign countries. In these States the cotton, sessamum and potato crops were somewhat below the average, and imports of these commodities fell in value by Rs. 1.01 lakhs, Rs. 1.54 lakhs and Rs. 1.40 lakhs to Rs. .33 lakh, Rs. 2.30 lakhs and Rs. 3.60 lakhs, respectively. Imports of oranges increased in quantity from 38,184 to 47,743 maunds, but their value remained stationary at Rs. 4.37 lakhs. Imports of pickled tea amounted to 216,535 maunds worth Rs. 33.54 lakhs, or a decrease of 3 per cent. in quantity and an increase of 15 per cent. in value. Black tea increased by 14 per cent. in quantity to 67,510 maunds and by 19 per cent. in value to Rs. 30.66 lakhs. Exports declined in value by Rs. 59.16 lakhs to Rs. 3,35.24 lakhs, or, if silver be excluded, the actual decline in merchandise was Rs. 85.15 lakhs. The chief decreases were under coal and coke, iron and railway materials, due to less importation by the Burma Mines Company. Cotton twist and yarn increased by 11 per cent. in quantity and by 38 per cent. in value. On the other hand, European cotton piece-goods fell in quantity by 13 per cent., but rose in value by 9 per cent. Petroleum increased from 101,057 maunds to 169,376 maunds in quantity and from Rs. 9.38 lakhs to Rs. 18.49 lakhs in value, owing to increased consumption by the Burma Mines Company, who are now using less coal and timber fuel. Exports of husked rice trebled in quantity and in value and amounted to 93,521 maunds worth Rs. 4.89 lakhs.

The value of imports from the Southern Shan States increased from Rs. 76.83 lakhs to Rs. 84.05 lakhs, and that of exports to these States from Rs. 1,15.91 lakhs to Rs. 1,17.40 lakhs. Under imports, ponies increased in number by 137 and in value by Rs. 26,000, owing to higher average prices being obtained, but the number of cattle imported decreased from 15,336 to 8,494 and their value from Rs. 8.13 lakhs to Rs. 4.74 lakhs. Garlic decreased by 4 per cent. in quantity to 51,973 maunds, but its value rose by 36 per cent. to Rs. 4.49 lakhs. Potatoes increased by 64,843 maunds to 313,995 maunds in quantity and by Rs. 3.32 lakhs to Rs. 10.32 lakhs in value, owing to higher prices. Hides, stick-lac and paints also increased in quantity and value, but wheat, leaf for cigar wrappers and oranges declined. The quantity of European twist and yarn exported was practically the same, but the value increased by 28 per cent. to Rs. 3.54 lakhs. European piece-goods decreased heavily both in quantity and in value from 14,126 maunds valued at Rs. 32.80 lakhs to 9,772 maunds worth Rs. 25.82 lakhs.

Trade with the Karenni States recovered somewhat from last year's setback; the value of imports increased from Rs. 22.50 lakhs to Rs. 23.53 lakhs, and that of exports from Rs. 8.69 lakhs to Rs. 13.91 lakhs. The principal imports were teak and wolfram valued at Rs. 6.61 lakhs, and Rs. 13.55 lakhs, respectively. The former declined both in quantity and in value, and the latter also declined by 3 per cent. in quantity, but increased by 15 per cent. in value. The value of silver exported to these States increased by Rs. 2.87 lakhs to Rs. 5.63 lakhs, mainly to meet the requirements of the Mawchi Mining Company.

Public Works.

126. The few administrative changes that took place in the Public Works Department have already been mentioned in paragraph 2. The total expenditure during the year fell from Rs. 1,31.23 lakhs to Rs. 1,22.87 lakhs, of which Provincial Civil Works accounted for Rs. 79.32 lakhs. The most important buildings completed during the year were court-houses at Mawlaik, the new headquarters of the Upper Chindwin District, and at Namhsan, the capital of the Tawngpeng State in the Northern Shan States, and new civil hospitals at Toungoo

Administrative and General.

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TION AND
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and Mawlaik. Good progress was made with new roads opening up the Myitkyina and Putao Districts, and communications in the Tavoy District were considerably improved in the interests of the tin and wolfram mining industry. The dredger "Frederic Fryer" continued to do excellent work in the reclamation of delta towns. The work of the department was somewhat hampered by the absence of many officers employed on military duty outside the Province.

(i) *Roads and Buildings.*

Communica-
tions.

127. The total length of metalled roads in the Province outside municipalities and notified areas rose from 1,920 miles to 1,972 miles, of which all but 10 were maintained by the Public Works Department. The length of unmetalled roads also increased from 10,339 miles to 10,570 miles, of which 2,185 miles were maintained by local authorities and the remainder by the Public Works Department. The total expenditure on communications was Rs. 59·06 lakhs of which Rs. 22·69 lakhs were spent on original works and Rs. 36·37 lakhs on repairs. The corresponding figures for the previous year were Rs. 55·92 lakhs, Rs. 16·77 lakhs and Rs. 39·15 lakhs, respectively. Satisfactory progress was made in many districts with the replacement of temporary bridges by permanent structures, perhaps the most notable work being the completion of a steel truss bridge costing Rs. 1·09 lakhs over the Ngalaik stream at Pyinnana in the Yamethin District. Other large bridges of a similar type were either completed or begun in the Insein, Tavoy, Hanthawaddy, Myitkyina, Putao and Prome Districts and in the Northern and Southern Shan States. In the Pegu District a raised and metalled bridle-path with bridges for cart traffic from Daik-u to Okshikôn was completed at a cost of Rs. 1·11 lakhs and considerable improvements were effected in the unmetalled roads of the Shwebo District. In the Myitkyina and Putao Districts good progress was made with the construction of the cart-road between Vowsong and Seniku; the first section of 17 miles was completed at a cost of Rs. 2·21 lakhs and a beginning was made with the embanking and bridging of the second section. In the Amherst District the survey of a road between Thanbyuzayat and Ye in the interests of the salt industry was completed and this road will eventually form a part of the contemplated trunk road between Moulmein and Tavoy and Mergui. In the Tavoy District another section of this trunk road was practically completed and much progress was made with the metalling and improvement of a network of roads serving the tin and wolfram mines.

Buildings,
Imperial and
Provincial.

128. The amount spent on Civil Buildings fell from Rs. 32·14 lakhs to Rs. 23·66 lakhs, of which Rs. 12·38 lakhs were spent on original works and Rs. 11·28 lakhs on repairs. As compared with the previous year, expenditure on original works fell by nearly Rs. 10 lakhs, while that on repairs increased by approximately Rs. 1 lakh. Among the many works completed were a combined Post and Telegraph Office at Kalaw in the Southern Shan States, numerous residential and administrative buildings rendered necessary by the transfer of the headquarters of the Upper Chindwin District from Kindat to Mawlaik, additional cottages for the inmates of the Rangoon Lunatic Asylum, a municipal hospital at Toungoo, a new court-house at Pônagyun in the Akyab District and various school buildings in the Bhamo, Sandoway and Minbu Districts. Satisfactory progress was also made with the scheme for building permanent quarters for the civil police throughout the Province. Minor structural alterations and improvements were carried out in the jails at Insein, Myaungmya, Toungoo and Ma-ubin; and the construction of barracks for military police at Namtu in the Northern Shan States and at Kalemio in the Upper Chindwin District was started.

Miscellaneous
public
improvements
and
sanitary
works.

129. The expenditure on Miscellaneous Public Improvements fell from Rs. 13·97 lakhs to Rs. 12·27 lakhs, of which Rs. 7·49 lakhs were spent on original works and Rs. 4·78 lakhs on repairs. In the Northern Shan States the demarcation and lay-out of the new town of Hsipaw were completed, and substantial progress was also made with the lay-out of the new station at Putao. The work of

metalling the roads in the civil station of Kalaw in the Southern Shan States was taken in hand and the lay-out of three railway towns in the Bassein District was completed. The dredger "Frederic Fryer" reclaimed 45'34 acres of land at Dedayè in the Pyapôn District and also 8'9 acres required for civil and military police lines at Kyônmanḡ in the Myaungmya District. New jetties and landing stages were either completed, or in course of construction, at Pauktaw and Pônṇagyūn in the Akyab District, at Andrew Bay in the Sandoway District, at Tantabin and Shwele in the Insein District, at Mindat in the Tavoy District, and at Thayagôn in the Pyapôn District. Additions were made to various bazaars and that at Sandoway was completed at a cost of Rs. '96 lakh.

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Experimental tube wells were sunk with successful results at Mawlaik and Yenangyaung, but those at Paungdè, Henzada and Zigôn proved failures. Projects for supplying water to numerous small towns were examined and at Toungoo a detailed survey was put in hand. The tube well water-supply for Ma-ubin was completed and opened at a total cost of Rs. 1'52 lakhs. The head works of the water-supply scheme for Pegu were also completed and the arrival of pipes from England is awaited to carry out the distribution scheme. Surveys for the drainage of the towns of Pyu, Pegu, Kanyutkwīn, Kyaiklat and Insein were completed and the schemes put in hand.

130. Expenditure on Military Works rose from Rs. 4'13 lakhs to Rs. 4'75 lakhs, of which Rs. 1'69 lakhs were spent on original works and the balance on repairs. At Mandalay temporary quarters for the Burma Sappers and Miners were completed, and the construction of quarters and cook-houses for the men of the 25th Mule Corps was begun. Improvements were made in the temporary accommodation for the 70th Burma Rifles at Maymyo and at the same station married quarters for men of the 2/10th Gurkha Rifles were almost completed. Three hutted camps for Turkish prisoners of war in the Southern Shan States were constructed and improvements were carried out at the Prisoners-of-war camp at Thayetmyo. Another Prisoners-of-war camp at Meiktila was completed at a cost of Rs. 3'45 lakhs. The work of sinking a six-inch diameter tube well for the water-supply at Mandalay Fort was put in hand, and all drains, culverts and main roads in the Eastern Town Drainage Scheme of the Mandalay Cantonment were completed.

Military
works.

(ii) Railways and Tramways.

131. The railways of the Province are worked by the Burma Railways Company, Limited. The length of open line increased from 1,598'46 miles to 1,601'98, owing to the opening to traffic of a new loop line between Togyauṅḡalé and Dawbong in the neighbourhood of Rangoon.

Railways:
construction
and sur-
veys.

The Railway Board sanctioned a reconnaissance survey, to be carried out by the agency of the Burma Railways Company, of the country between the Lashio Branch of the Burma Railways and Namtu, in order to determine the best alignment for a railway on the metre gauge to serve the mines of the Burma Mining Company at Namtu. This survey is in progress.

The Railway Board also invited the opinion of the Local Government on a scheme of surveys for branch lines in the Tenasserim Division, including detailed surveys from Moulmein to Wagaru, from Mudôn to Yebu on the Mudôn Three Pagodas alignment, from Yebu (near Tavoy) to the steamer anchorage; and, as an alternative to the first mentioned, a survey for a line from Moulmein to Yebu. The opinions of the Agent of the Burma Railways and of local officers on these different projects have been obtained.

The application of Mr. Wali Mahomed for a concession for the construction of a line between Kyāngin and Petye is under consideration by the Railway Board.

The Buthidaung-Maungdaw Tramway was taken over by the Arakan Light Railway Company in pursuance of an agreement with the Secretary of State, and the line was opened for traffic on the 15th February 1919.

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DISTRIBUTION.

Sanction was accorded to a detailed survey to be carried out by the Assam-Bengal Railway Company for a line on the metre gauge from Maungdaw to Akyab, a distance of 77 miles.

The employment of Turkish prisoners on earth-work on a length of 17 miles of the Pyinmana-Magwe railway was approved by the Secretary of State, and the work was completed. The detailed report of this projected line is under consideration.

Progress was made with the third section of the Southern Shan States line between Aungban and Heho, on which Turkish prisoners-of-war were also employed. This section was resurveyed and an estimate for its construction amounting to Rs. 16.28 lakhs was submitted to the Railway Board.

Accidents
and inter-
ruptions.

132. Interruptions due to floods during the rains were less numerous than usual, and in no case did the interruption exceed 36 hours in duration. On the 18th May 1919, owing to exceptionally heavy rain, a breach occurred between Kyatti and Payangazu stations on the Southern Shan States line, but through communication was restored the same day. On the 19th May on the same line between Payangazu and Hlaingdet stations heavy floods scoured the embankment to the ground level in some places and also damaged the approaches to two bridges. Transhipment was resorted to, but through running was resumed on the 20th May. On the 7th June, owing to the bursting of the embankment of the Mahananda tank near Shwebo, the line between Shwebo and Myingatha stations was flooded and traffic was suspended for 24 hours as a precautionary measure. On the 1st August 1919 heavy floods breached the line in several places between Toungoo and Kyedaw Stations, necessitating the transhipment of passengers and mails for 24 hours, when the line was reopened to through traffic. On the 15th August 1919 a sudden flood occurred between Kyauktaga and Penwëgôn stations on the main line. This uprooted several large trees, which jammed at the bridge and displaced the girders. A serious accident was averted by the alertness and presence of mind of an engine-driver, who noticed that the girders and rails were out of alignment and brought his train to a standstill. Through communication was restored next day. There were, however, several accidents from other causes. On the 27th January 1919 a mixed train collided with a goods train standing in Nyaungpattaya Station, owing to the driver of the mixed train running against signals. One Burman cattle attendant was injured, both engines were damaged, one goods waggon was derailed and two others were telescoped. The driver responsible for the accident was prosecuted. On the 16th February at Bawgyo Station an engine and five covered goods waggons were derailed, owing to the incorrect setting of points, but no passengers were injured and through communication was restored the same day. On the 8th May 1919 at Henzada Shore Station a 10-ton crane fell into the river while being loaded on to an end loader barge and blocked the slip-way. Through booking of goods and live-stock was suspended till the 13th May, passengers in the meanwhile being conveyed across the river by boat. On the 20th May 1919 a train collided with a bull between Gamônzeik and Zibyugôn Stations and three goods waggons were derailed and four capsized. No passengers were hurt, but damage to the amount of Rs. 4,000 was done to rolling-stock. Through running was resumed next day. On the 3rd June, while a local mixed train of 14 vehicles was entering Penwëgôn Station, the twelfth vehicle took the station line instead of the second line and capsized, derailing and badly damaging the rear bogie of the passenger vehicle in front of it. A female passenger was slightly injured and damage to the extent of Rs. 900 was done to the interlocking and rolling-stock. The accident was due to the facing points not having been locked and reversing themselves during the passage of the train over them. On the 9th June the ferry crossing of the waggons at Sagaing was interrupted owing to the grounding of a flat which blocked the channel. The grounding was due to a sudden fall of the river, but the flat was refloated when the river again rose on the 15th June. On the 3rd July a small bogie waggon caught fire between Nyaungbinwun and Myinmu Stations and five Burman passengers, who jumped off the train through fright, were injured, one of them seriously.

Chart IV.—
Passenger
Traffic and
Receipts.

133. The number of passengers carried on the whole system during the year rose from 26,939,871 to 28,267,340. Gross earnings rose from Rs. 247.73 lakhs to Rs. 293.55 lakhs; working expenses from Rs. 133.26 lakhs to Rs. 158.88 lakhs and net earnings from Rs. 114.50 lakhs to Rs. 134.67 lakhs.

On the main line gross earnings increased from Rs. 222.75 lakhs to Rs. 263.29 lakhs; working expenses from Rs. 117.89 lakhs to Rs. 140.07 lakhs and net earnings from Rs. 104.85 lakhs to Rs. 123.22 lakhs. The capital outlay since the beginning of operations fell from Rs. 1,784.95 lakhs to Rs. 1,775.15 lakhs, consequent on large sales of rolling-stock to the military department for use overseas. The train mileage run increased from 4,646,767 to 5,043,736 miles and the average earnings per mile per week from Rs. 319.23 to Rs. 375.51. The average earnings per train mile rose from Rs. 4.79 to Rs. 5.28 and the average expenses from Rs. 2.53 to Rs. 2.78. The percentage of expenses to earnings increased from 52.93 to 53.20 and that of net receipts to capital outlay from 5.75 to 7.03. Among the chief items of expenditure were the construction of the Togyangga-Dawbong loop line, relaying the line from Toungoo to Yamethin with 60 lb. rails, remodelling Thazi station yard and constructing a new bridge over the Pazundaung creek.

Owing to sales of rolling-stock for overseas service the capital outlay on the Pegu-Moulmein railway since the beginning of operations was reduced to Rs. 153.10 lakhs. Train mileage rose from 478,387 to 553,964 miles; the average earnings per train mile increased from Rs. 3.75 to Rs. 4.06 and expenses from Rs. 1.96 to Rs. 2.16. Gross earnings rose from Rs. 17.93 lakhs to Rs. 22.47 lakhs and expenses from Rs. 9.40 lakhs to Rs. 11.94 lakhs. The percentage of expenses to gross earnings increased from 52.43 to 53.12 per cent. and that of net receipts to capital outlay from 5.53 to 6.38. The mean mileage worked was 121.27 miles.

The capital outlay during the year on the Henzada-Kyangin railway amounted to Rs. 21,676, making a total of Rs. 65.11 lakhs since the beginning of operations. The train mileage increased from 72,914 to 86,151 miles. Gross earnings rose from Rs. 2.06 lakhs to Rs. 2.98 lakhs and working expenses from Rs. 1.79 lakhs to Rs. 2.34 lakhs. The ratio of expenses to earnings rose from 67.47 to 78.49 per cent., while that of net receipts to capital outlay declined from 1.33 to 0.99 per cent. The mean mileage worked was 65.66 miles.

Capital expenditure on the first two sections of the Southern Shan States line, namely from Thazi to Aungban, a distance of 70 miles, amounted to Rs. 14,897. This raises the total expenditure from the commencement of operations to Rs. 153.78 lakhs, inclusive of Rs. 3.77 lakhs debitable to the extension from Aungban to Heho, which constitutes the third section and is now under construction. The train mileage fell from 104,718 to 98,207 miles; gross earnings increased from Rs. 4.40 lakhs to Rs. 4.81 lakhs, working expenses from Rs. 4.17 lakhs to Rs. 4.53 lakhs, and net earnings from Rs. 0.23 lakh to Rs. 0.28 lakh. The ratio of expenses to gross earnings declined from 94.78 to 94.24 per cent. and the percentage of net receipts to capital outlay increased from 0.15 to 0.18 per cent. The mean mileage worked was 69.68. A sum of Rs. 3.05 lakhs was incurred during the year on account of earthwork on the Aungban-Heho extension.

The survey for the Pyinmana-Magwe line was completed at a cost of Rs. 30,025, and an expenditure of Rs. 27,091 has so far been incurred on the survey of the Namtu line. Expenditure on earth-work on the Pyinmana-Magwe line amounted to Rs. 80,241. Nothing was spent on the survey of the East Daga line, and further work on this project has been suspended.

134. There was a further remarkable rise in the number of passengers carried by tramways in Rangoon from 17,639,310, to 21,948,303, or double the number carried two years ago. The running mileage was computed at 1,544,840 as against 1,554,842 in the preceding year. Receipts rose from Rs. 9.35 lakhs to Rs. 11.21 lakhs. Tramways.

The tramways in Mandalay also had increased traffic, the number of passengers carried rising from 2,601,281 to 3,648,038, the running mileage from 155,201 to 455,795 and the receipts from Rs. 2.06 lakhs to Rs. 2.88 lakhs.

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The light railway from Mandalay to Madaya, about 18 miles in length, continued to do badly, inspection disclosed numerous defects in the construction and working of the line and the Company has gone into liquidation.

(iii) *Canals.*

Navigation
canals.

135. The Pegu-Sittang Canal was maintained in good working order throughout the year, though the usual difficulty from shallow water for a stretch of five miles near Myitkyo was experienced during the months of April and May. A new dredger is being procured to widen and deepen the canal where necessary. The water hyacinth gave a great deal of trouble and blocked the canal in one part for a month in December, but new methods for dealing with this pest have been evolved and it is hoped they will greatly mitigate the nuisance. All sluices worked well during the year and progress was made with the renewal of the lock gates at Tawa. The revenue from this canal rose from Rs. 1.78 lakhs to Rs. 1.98 lakhs, which is the highest figure recorded during the past ten years, but working expenses also rose from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 1.16 lakhs.

The net revenue from the Twante Canal, which was constructed solely for navigation purposes, rose from Rs. 2.99 lakhs to Rs. 3.14 lakhs and expenses of working from Rs. .89 lakh to Rs. 1.16 lakhs. Improvements were made to the quarters of the toll collecting staff at Twantewa and Letpangon, and the construction of the marginal embankment along the northern side of the "New Cut" was completed at a total cost of Rs. .11 lakh.

The Shwetachaung Canal between Mandalay and Madaya is also used for navigation as well as for irrigation purposes. The only work of importance in connection with this canal was the construction of a new bridge at Madaya, which was practically completed during the year.

The bund constructed across the abandoned Sittang-Kyaikto Canal to prevent the water rushing up towards Kyaikto was swept away by the bore, and this necessitated the building of a new bund at a different site in order to protect the railway line.

Irrigation.

Major
irrigation
works.

136. There are in the Province four irrigation works classed as "Major," namely the Mandalay, Shwebo, Mohn and Ye-u Canal systems. The total capital outlay on these at the end of the financial year rose from Rs. 2,15.93 lakhs to Rs. 2,20.58 lakhs and the amount expended during the year fell from Rs. 5.62 lakhs to Rs. 4.63 lakhs. The area irrigated or benefited rose from 274,587 acres to 301,895; the gross revenue receipts from Rs. 11.44 lakhs to Rs. 17.98 lakhs; working expenses from Rs. 5.02 lakhs to Rs. 6.70 lakhs; the net revenue from Rs. 6.42 lakhs to Rs. 11.24 lakhs; and the percentage of net revenue to capital expenditure from 3 to 5.09 per cent.

The increase in the area irrigated is due to the inclusion, for the first time, of 33,453 acres benefited by the Ye-u Canal, which was completed during the year. A large proportion of the increase in revenue is due to realization during the year of considerable arrears outstanding from the previous year.

Extensions to the training works in the Mu River at the head works of the Shwebo Canal were nearly completed and many bridges, syphons and other miscellaneous works were either completed or begun on all four canal systems.

Though the water-supply of the Mandalay Canal was regular and ample, the area irrigated during the year fell from 61,005 acres to 60,932 acres, the decrease being due to the low price of paddy, which led to large areas of irrigable land being left fallow. The gross revenue increased from Rs. 2.33 lakhs to Rs. 4.68 lakhs, working expenses from Rs. .77 lakh to Rs. 1.15 lakhs and the net revenue from Rs. 1.56 lakhs to Rs. 3.53 lakhs. The increase in revenue is due to the collection of Rs. 1.46 lakhs of arrears due from the previous year and the larger working expenses are due to the increase in collection charges on the greater amount of revenue collected.

The area irrigated by the Shwabo Canal fell by 6,947 acres to 148,034 acres. The decrease is attributable partly to increased fallowing, owing to the low course of paddy prices, partly to the extension of wheat cultivation, which is planted after the close of the irrigation season and for which the canal gets no credit, and partly to the neglect of cultivators to keep their water-courses in proper repair. An interesting feature was the introduction of onions as an irrigated crop and there is some probability that the cultivation of this valuable crop will be extended in future years. The gross revenue rose from Rs. 6.84 lakhs to Rs. 8.77 lakhs, working expenses from Rs. 2.77 lakhs to Rs. 3.45 lakhs, and the net revenue from Rs. 4.07 lakhs to Rs. 5.32 lakhs. The reasons for the increase in revenue and working expenses are the same as those in the case of the Mandalay Canal, the arrears collected during the year amounting to Rs. 1.35 lakhs.

The area irrigated by the Mōn Canals increased from 58,601 acres to 59,476 acres, owing to improvements in the system of irrigation and the absence of destructive floods. The area under rice decreased, owing to the popularity of small white beans. The gross revenue increased from Rs. 2.27 lakhs to Rs. 3.85 lakhs, working expenses fell from Rs. 1.48 lakhs to Rs. 1.39 lakhs, and the net revenue rose from Rs. .79 lakh to Rs. 2.46 lakhs. The increase in revenue is mainly due to the collection of arrears from the previous year amounting to Rs. .94 lakh. A sum of Rs. .35 lakh was similarly outstanding at the end of the year of report.

The Ye-u Canal was opened to irrigation on the 1st June 1918. The distributary system is still under construction and most of the water-courses have yet to be built. Though intense rainfall delayed the effective opening of the canal and the low river level somewhat restricted the supply of water, nevertheless 33,453 acres were irrigated. The canal area is at present under settlement and meanwhile a temporary water rate of Rs. 2 per acre actually irrigated is being levied in addition to the ordinary land revenue. Gross revenue amounted to Rs. 67,965 and working expenses to Rs. 70,264, with the result that the net revenue account showed a small deficit of Rs. 2,299.

137. Nearly all the irrigation works in the Province classed as "Minor" lie in Upper Burma. Many miscellaneous repairs and improvements were carried out, of which the most important were the rebuilding of the Hteinnyetkōn weir in the Yamèthin District, the rebuilding of the regulator at the headworks of the Sama Canal in the Kyauksè District and the completion of the survey for the remodelling of the Man Canal system in the Minbu District.

In the Mandalay District the area irrigated from the Shwetachaung Canal fell from 15,744 acres to 11,945 acres and the revenue from Rs. 73,295 to Rs. 65,430, owing to the continuous high level of the Irrawaddy River. The area irrigated by the Mu canal in the Shwabo District also fell from 18,081 acres to 7,428 acres and the revenue from Rs. 25,161 to Rs. 12,039, the decreases being attributable to deficient rainfall.

The areas irrigated by the canal systems taking off from the Panlaung and Zawgyi Rivers in the Kyauksè District increased from 129,336 acres to 148,570 acres and the revenue from Rs. 6.27 lakhs to Rs. 6.85 lakhs. The considerable increase of over 19,000 acres is attributable to the good and regular supply of water and also to the fall in the market rate for small white beans, which caused cultivators to revert to the cultivation of rice.

In the Minbu District the area irrigated by the Man Canal fell slightly from 17,126 acres to 16,765 acres, while that irrigated by the Salin Canals rose slightly from 28,169 acres to 28,872 acres. Owing to illness amongst cultivators the revenue from the Man Canal fell from Rs. 1.07 lakhs to Rs. 1.04 lakhs and that from the Salin Canals from Rs. 1.11 lakhs to Rs. 1.10 lakhs. The revenue from minor irrigation works in the same district fell from Rs. 2,001 to Rs. 780, owing to the entire destruction of the hot-weather paddy crop by untimely floods of the Irrawaddy River.

In the Myingyan and Yamèthin Districts the irrigated area decreased by nearly 50 per cent., with a corresponding decline in revenue, owing to insufficient

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and ill distributed rainfall. In the Meiktila District also the season was unfavourable and the irrigated area fell from 84,391 acres to 79,173 acres, but the revenue nevertheless, increased from Rs. 1'70 lakhs to Rs. 1'74 lakhs, owing to more extensive cultivation of better class land on which a higher rate of revenue is levied.

As compared with the previous year the gross revenue from all minor irrigation works in Upper Burma rose from Rs. 11'83 lakhs to Rs. 12'39 lakhs, working expenses fell from Rs. 5'63 lakhs to Rs. 5'35 lakhs and the net receipts accordingly increased from Rs. 6'20 lakhs to Rs. 7'05 lakhs.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

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Note on the Working of the Income-tax Act, VII of 1918, in Burma for the year 1918-19.
Report on the Forest Administration of Burma for the year ended the 30th June 1918.
Report on the Working of the Rangoon Municipality for the year 1918-19.
Report on the Reclamation of Rangoon Town Lands for the year 1918-19.
Resolution reviewing the Reports on the working of Municipal Committees in Burma (except Rangoon) during the year 1918-19.
Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India with the British Empire and Foreign Countries, Volume II.
Statistical Abstract for British India, Volumes II and IV.

Provincial Settlement.

138. The receipts and expenditure of the Province, other than those pertaining to local authorities, are divided between the Imperial and Provincial Governments in accordance with the terms of what is known as the Provincial Settlement. The existing Provincial Settlement was drawn up in 1907, but its terms were modified in 1911, with a view to converting large fixed assignments, which the Province then received from Imperial Revenues, into shares of growing revenue. The original Provincial Settlement was described in the Report on the Administration of Burma for the year 1907-08, and the subsequent modifications were summarized in the Report on the Administration of Burma for the year 1911-12. In 1915-16, in view of the fact that the Settlement had proved less favourable to the Province than had been anticipated, an additional recurring assignment from Imperial to Provincial Revenues of Rs. 15·11 lakhs was sanctioned, and a progressive guarantee was given of a minimum total growing revenue advancing by Rs. 8 lakhs a year from Rs. 479·46 lakhs in 1911-12 up to Rs. 575·46 lakhs in 1923-24, and thereafter a minimum total revenue of the latter amount, exclusive of assignments. No modification was made in the year of report or in the two preceding years.

Gross Revenue and Expenditure.

139. The gross receipts for the Province for the year of report rose from Rs. 12,39·81 lakhs to Rs. 14,64·23 lakhs and the gross expenditure from Rs. 8,68·42 lakhs to Rs. 9,31·83 lakhs. This increase was common to both Imperial and Provincial receipts, the former rising from Rs. 4,49·52 lakhs to Rs. 5,43·16 lakhs and the latter from Rs. 5,55·59 lakhs to Rs. 6,48·56 lakhs. Receipts of District and District Cess Funds also rose from Rs. 51·17 lakhs to Rs. 69·89 lakhs; of other Local Funds from Rs. 34·73 lakhs to Rs. 95·44 lakhs and of Municipalities from Rs. 98·79 lakhs to Rs. 1,07·19 lakhs. There was also an

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all-round increase in expenditure, Imperial expenditure rising from Rs. 53·18 lakhs to Rs. 65·75 lakhs, Provincial from Rs. 5,78·27 lakhs to Rs. 6,11·69 lakhs, that of District and District Cess Funds from Rs. 58·24 lakhs to Rs. 60·81 lakhs, of other Local Funds from Rs. 83·30 lakhs to Rs. 92·69 lakhs and of Municipalities from Rs. 95·44 lakhs to Rs. 1,00·90 lakhs.

These figures include the transactions of the Akyab Port Fund, the Rangoon Port Trust, the Rangoon Municipality, the Rangoon Pilot Fund and the Moulmein Municipality, though they do not bank with Government.

(a) IMPERIAL REVENUE AND FINANCE.

[In this section are discussed sources of revenue or expenditure which are partly as well as those which are wholly Imperial.]

Total
Imperial
figures:
notable
variations.

140. The net increase of Rs. 93·64 lakhs in Imperial receipts was the result of a gross increase of Rs. 1,02·67 lakhs, mainly under the heads "Land Revenue," "Salt," "Customs," "Income-tax" and "Major Irrigation Works" combined with a gross decrease of Rs. 9·03 lakhs, mainly under the head "Transfers between Imperial and Provincial." The increase of Rs. 36·97 lakhs under the head "Land Revenue" was mainly due to the realisation of the arrears of revenue of the year 1917-18, collection of which had been postponed till 1918-19, owing to the unsatisfactory condition of the paddy market, and partly also to an improvement in the fishery revenue. The salt revenue rose by Rs. 4·05 lakhs, owing to an increase in the output of local salt. An improvement of Rs. 28·11 lakhs under the head "Customs" was due partly to the general enhancement in the value of all commodities, partly to the shipment of rice on account of the Wheat Commission, and partly to larger receipts from excise duty on motor spirit and tobacco. Receipts from "Income-tax" increased by Rs. 20·51 lakhs, mainly on account of more accurate assessment consequent on the reorganisation of the Rangoon Income-tax office, and also on account of the assessment of super-tax. There was an improvement of Rs. 5·95 lakhs in the revenue from "Major Irrigation Works." This was due mainly to recovery during the year of report of the arrears of revenue of the year 1917-18, collection of which was postponed, owing to the unsatisfactory condition of the paddy market, and partly also to larger receipts from the Twante Canal. Imperial receipts under the head "Transfers between Imperial and Provincial" declined, and Provincial receipts consequently increased by Rs. 8·84 lakhs, owing to numerous assignments from Imperial to Provincial for various purposes including primary education, the Kuki operations, the establishment of an Agricultural College at Mandalay and of a Technical and Industrial School at Moulmein, and a publicity campaign. Increased assignments were also granted from Imperial revenues to cover expenditure on the new Putao District.

The net increase of Rs. 12·58 lakhs in Imperial expenditure was the result of a gross increase of Rs. 14·20 lakhs, mainly under the heads "Irrigation Works," "Refunds and Drawbacks," and "Irrigation Major Works," and a gross decrease of Rs. 1·62 lakhs, mainly under the heads "Civil Works, Public Works Department" and "Miscellaneous." The capital outlay not charged to revenue on "Irrigation Works" was higher by Rs. 8·19 lakhs than that of the previous year in which a heavy adjustment was made on account of the cost of the dredger "Lees" made over to the Military Department. The increase of Rs. 1·77 lakhs under "Refunds and Drawbacks" was due to larger refunds of customs duty, owing to shortage of tonnage, though this was partly counterbalanced by smaller refunds of income-tax. Expenditure on "Major Irrigation Works" rose by Rs. 1·76 lakhs, owing to heavier maintenance charges for the completed portion of the Ye-u Canal and to increased commission on account of larger revenue collections. The expenditure on "Civil Works" fell by Rs. ·86 lakh, owing to smaller outlay on original works, and under "Miscellaneous" owing to smaller expenditure on remittances of coin as the result of the increased note circulation.

Land Revenue.

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AND
FINANCE.
Land
Revenue
receipts.

141. The gross receipts under "Land Revenue" for the financial year rose from Rs. 4,13.74 lakhs to Rs. 5,14.28 lakhs, mainly owing to the realisations of collections postponed from the previous year. Under the terms of the Provincial Settlement three-eighths of the receipts are allotted to Imperial and the rest to Provincial Funds, so the amount credited to Imperial and Provincial Funds rose from Rs. 1,54.10 lakhs to Rs. 1,91.07 lakhs and from Rs. 2,59.64 lakhs to Rs. 3,23.21 lakhs, respectively. Expenditure under this head is wholly debitable to Provincial Funds and rose from Rs. 60.19 lakhs to Rs. 70.43 lakhs. This head includes receipts derived from the land-tax, or land revenue proper, which is dealt with in Chapter II of this Report, and various other items detailed below. Collections of land revenue proper due for the year 1918-19 amounted to Rs. 2,99.60 lakhs, arrears of the year 1917-18 collected during the year of report amounted to Rs. 8.57 lakhs, and the total collections for the year were thus Rs. 3,08.17 lakhs. The corresponding figures for the previous year were Rs. 3,00.22 lakhs, Rs. 68 lakh and Rs. 3,00.90 lakhs.

Collections of capitation-tax in Lower Burma fell from Rs. 56.8a lakhs to Rs. 52.79 lakhs, the number of persons assessed from 1,407,680 to 1,384,698, while the amount remitted increased considerably from Rs. 1.33 lakhs to Rs. 4.65 lakhs. The decrease in assesses is mainly due to the non-assessment of immigrant Chittagonian coolies in the Akyab District. These men this year escaped assessment as they are ordinarily assessed in January and February and orders suspending the collection of the tax were received in December. The same district is responsible for Rs. 2.81 lakhs of the total remissions of Rs. 4.65 lakhs, which represents the uncollected portion of the tax at the time when the Lieutenant-Governor visited the district and remitted the outstanding balance. The amounts collected in this district during the year of report should, however, be treated as remissions, as one full year's remission was granted and the amount collected during 1918-19 is being carried forward and counted against the demand for 1919-20. Influenza was the cause of a decline in the number of assesses in several districts. The number of persons exempted increased from 192,886 to 211,123, most of whom were exempted on account of poverty and old age. Collections of land-rate in lieu of capitation-tax in certain towns fell from Rs. 1.01 lakhs to Rs. 1.00 lakh and the area assessed from 7,749 acres to 7,549 acres. These decreases are due to the exemption of land in the occupation of income-tax payers.

Collections of *thathameda* in Upper Burma increased slightly from Rs. 39.44 lakhs to Rs. 39.54 lakhs, while the number of households assessed decreased slightly from 873,757 to 873,301. Remissions fell from Rs. 59.251 to Rs. 54.704, and the outstandings at the end of the year from Rs. 10,933 to Rs. 2,487. The number of exempted households increased from 110,989 to 113,686, poverty being the chief ground of exemption. Influenza and the exemption of recruits for the army and their parents are the main reasons for the increase in the number of exemptees.

The demand of fishery revenue rose from Rs. 31.23 lakhs to Rs. 33.48 lakhs. Rents bid at the annual auctions of leased fisheries increased by no less than Rs. 2.34 lakhs, owing to keen competition, but the revenue from net licenses fell by Rs. 7.526, owing to the high cost of twine and boat-building materials. The season was on the whole a favourable one, there was a good market for fish and fish-paste, and in the majority of districts lessees obtained substantial profits. Remissions increased from Rs. 14,859 to Rs. 28,230 and the balance outstanding at the end of the year from Rs. 8,324 to Rs. 15,023, but collections also rose from Rs. 30.99 lakhs to Rs. 33.06 lakhs.

Collections of miscellaneous land revenue fell from Rs. 45.81 lakhs to Rs. 44.96 lakhs. The sub-head "Royalties on Petroleum, Rubies, Jade and Amber" is solely responsible for the decrease, receipts on this account falling from Rs. 36.93 lakhs to Rs. 34.82 lakhs, and all other items show an increase. Even under this sub-head the decrease is nominal, and is more than accounted for by chellans for Rs. 3.26 lakhs, payable by Oil Companies in the Magwe District,

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being received too late for incorporation in the accounts of the year of report. Owing chiefly to increased activity in the tin and wolfram mining industries, receipts under the sub-head "Other minerals" rose from Rs. 3'66 lakhs to Rs. 4'40 lakhs. Rents of Town Lands not credited to Local Funds increased from Rs. 2'71 lakhs to Rs. 2'98 lakhs, and receipts under the Village Act from Rs. 1'89 lakhs to Rs. 2'12 lakhs, in spite of a marked decrease in the number and amount of collective fines imposed on villages for misconduct.

Canal (Navigation and Irrigation) Revenue.

142. Paragraphs 89, 135, 136 and 137 of Chapter IV deal with the works for protection, navigation and irrigation of the Province and the revenue obtained from them in the year of report. Receipts and expenditure on "Major Works" are wholly Imperial; those on others are wholly Provincial. The only "Major Works" in the Province are the Mandalay, Shwebo, Môn and Ye-u Canals, which are Irrigation Works, and the Twante Canal, which is a Navigation Work.

Sources of Imperial Revenue other than the Land.

Customs.

143. Both receipts and expenditure under the head "Customs" are classified as "Imperial," and the former do not include the import duty on salt. The total collections for the year rose from Rs. 1,89'56 lakhs to Rs. 2,17'67 lakhs. Import duty rose from Rs. 85'53 lakhs to Rs. 95'59 lakhs and export duty from Rs. 78'42 lakhs to Rs. 87'03 lakhs. The causes of these fluctuations are explained in paragraphs 113—120 of this Report. The expenditure on "Customs" rose from Rs. 7'63 lakhs to Rs. 8'33 lakhs, and the net revenue under this head from Rs. 1,81'93 lakhs to Rs. 2,09'34 lakhs.

Opium.

144. Under the head "Opium" in the Imperial accounts there is no expenditure in Burma, and the receipts include only the payments made by the Government of Burma to the Government of India for the purchase of opium. All other receipts and expenditure in connection with the drug are included under the head "Excise." In the year of report the Government of Burma spent Rs. 6'08 lakhs on the purchase of opium as compared with Rs. 5'19 lakhs in the previous year.

Salt :
General.

145. The Burma Salt Act, 1917, came into force on the 1st January 1918, together with rules, directions and notifications thereunder, but in practice the changes were not of much importance. The chief object of the Act was to bring the law and procedure more into harmony with the actual state of affairs, which has resulted from the gradual replacement of the composition duty system by the direct duty system, under which 98 per cent. of the duty levied in the year of report was assessed.

Under the new Act the duty is levied at a fixed rate per 100 viss instead of per maund, but this rate has been fixed at Rs. 5-7-6, which is exactly equivalent to the previously existing rate of Re. 1-4-0 per maund, and is also identical with the customs duty leviable on imported salt. The most satisfactory feature of the year was the continued substantial progress made in the local manufacture of salt. The output of Burma salt increased by nearly 44 per cent., and local salt for the first time contributed more than half the total revenue, although this reached the record figure of nearly Rs. 33 lakhs. Experiments were made at the salt factories with a new type of furnace designed to secure greater economy in the use of fuel, and a scheme is under preparation by which certain defined forest tracts will be allotted to the different salt centres.

The cost of the salt establishment rose from Rs. 43,758 to Rs. 64,902 and the percentage of cost to revenue in the direct duty districts from 3'33 to 3'83. The increased cost is due to the larger establishment entertained in consequence of the increase in production.

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REVENUE
AND
FINANCE.
Supply of
salt.

146. The course of prices of the various types of imported salt and of Burma salt has been already described in detail in paragraph 115 of this Report. The average wholesale price of imported salt varied from Rs. 3-2-6 to Rs. 3-12-4 per maund, while the average price of Burma salt was Rs. 3-0-1 as compared with Rs. 2-13-0 in the previous year. Omitting three exceptional districts, the average retail price of all salt, including both imported and Burma varieties, rose from Rs. 4-7-3 per maund to Rs. 4-12-4, which is the highest figure so far recorded. The estimated consumption of the Province also was the highest on record, and rose from 2,270,865 maunds to 2,657,575 maunds, which is 17 per cent. above last year's consumption and 9 per cent. above the average. The consumption of Burma-made salt increased by 295,248 maunds, or 96 per cent., while that of imported salt increased by 91,462 maunds, or nearly 8 per cent.

The high prices caused by the shortage of shipping and consequent scarcity of imported salt greatly stimulated the production of Burma salt; the number of licenses in the direct duty districts rose from 289 to 434, and those under the composition system also increased from 911 to 1,042. Direct duty increased from Rs. 13.14 lakhs to Rs. 16.94 lakhs, while composition duty fell from Rs. 38,982 to Rs. 36,385. The total revenue from Burma-made salt thus rose from Rs. 13.53 lakhs to Rs. 17.31 lakhs, which is by far the highest figure ever recorded. Customs duty on imported salt, including salt fish, also increased from Rs. 14.57 lakhs to Rs. 15.67 lakhs, and the combined revenue from Burma-made and imported salt rose from Rs. 28.10 lakhs to Rs. 32.97 lakhs.

147. The effects of the war were still visible in a further decrease in consumption of imported alcoholic liquor. This was counterbalanced by increased licit consumption of country alcoholic liquor and of Burma-brewed beer, the revenue from which reached record figures. The duty on beer remained at 4½ annas per gallon, and that on imported spirit at Rs. 11-4 per London proof gallon, but that on contract distillery spirit was revised and raised throughout the Province. The tree-tax experiment mentioned in last year's Report was continued in the Prome District, and extended to the remaining districts of the Pegu Division and to the Henzada District. Daily allowances of opium were revised throughout the Province, with the result that issues of opium slightly decreased. Seizures of opium and cocaine continued to decline, the former owing to increased demand from China, and the latter owing to the stoppage of supplies from Germany. New Excise Directions were issued during the year.

Excise—
General.

The gross receipts for the year amounted to the record figure of Rs. 96.95 lakhs as compared with Rs. 92.27 lakhs in the previous year, or an increase of 5.1 per cent. Revenue from alcoholic liquor rose from Rs. 49.23 lakhs to Rs. 53.59 lakhs, the increase being attributable to increased licit consumption of liquor made in the Province. There was also a slight increase in the receipts from opium, which rose from Rs. 42.14 lakhs to Rs. 42.47 lakhs. The total expenditure on the combined establishment for excise and salt rose from Rs. 12.56 lakhs to Rs. 12.80 lakhs, expensive repairs to a launch in the Akyab District and the construction of a tramway for salt purposes in the Amherst District accounting for the greater part of the increase. The net demand for the year was Rs. 1,02.86 lakhs. Of this amount Rs. 172 were outstanding at the end of the year, but on the other hand, Rs. 10,101 were collected in advance for the coming year, making the gross realisations Rs. 1,03.00 lakhs. The difference between this figure and the gross receipts of Rs. 96.95 lakhs represents the cost price of the issues of excise opium at Rs. 13 per seer.

The strength of the staff employed in connection with salt was increased and the Rail and River charge was abolished, its staff being allocated to the Mandalay, Kyaukse and Meiktila Districts. The total number of arrests and convictions for offences of all classes against the excise and opium laws fell by 10 per cent. to 10,264 and 8,271, respectively. More active assistance was rendered by the police and by village headmen.

148. Owing to a revision of the wholesale price of opium to vendors, the net gain on issues of excise opium to vendors increased from Rs. 41.13 lakhs to

Excise—
Opium.

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Rs. 41.43 lakhs, and owing to a revision of license fees payable by retail vendors, receipts from this source also increased from Rs. 1.01 lakhs to Rs. 1.04 lakhs.

The quantity of opium issued to shops fell from 47,675 seers to 47,350 seers. Half the districts showed increases and the other half decreases. Sales increased by 12.5 per cent. in the Pegu District, owing to an influx of Chinese consumers, by 12 per cent. in the Toungoo District, owing to an increased proportion of sales of prepared opium, and by 10 per cent. in the Tavoy District, owing to an increase of labour at the wolfram mines. The incidence of consumption per 1,000 of the population fell from 4.52 to 4.49 seers. Increased attention was devoted to the revision and regulation of allowances with satisfactory results. Chinese Advisory Committees for fixing the allowances of consumers were of service in the Thaton District, but the experiment was not a success in the three other districts in which it was tried. Scarcity of shipping and the great demand and high prices offered in China combined to cause a diminution in the smuggling of opium from all sources. Hawking was kept well in hand, and illicit opium generally cost three or four times the price of the same amount of licit opium. Opinions are divided as to whether the taste for opium is declining, but it is probable that the young Burman takes to drink rather than to opium.

The normal wholesale price of excise opium to licensed vendors was, with one exception, fixed at the uniform rate of Rs. 100 per seer throughout the Province, this rate being modified on a definite sliding scale dependent on the size of the allotments of opium made to individual vendors. Except in the case of one remote shop, the retail price to consumers was also made uniform at Re. 1-6 per tola of raw opium (Rs. 110 per seer) and Re. 1-11 per tola of cooked opium (Rs. 135 per seer). In 25 districts opium was sold both raw and prepared, and in seven districts raw only. The policy of selling only prepared opium to smokers was carried into effect in all places in which facilities for the preparation of opium existed. Licenses for retail vend were 124 in number, or the same figure as in the previous year, but the revenue from license fees, which are fixed at a quarter of the estimated gross profit, rose from Rs. '97 lakh to Rs. '99 lakh. Though the net profits of licensees fell by 26 per cent., owing to the increase in license fees and in the cost of the opium sold, the profits, which averaged nearly Rs. 150 per month per shop, were still sufficient to secure a suitable type of licensee. On the whole, the conduct of licensees was good and they gave a satisfactory amount of information regarding opium and excise offences.

The number of arrests and convictions under the Opium Act for illicit dealings in opium fell from 1,477 to 1,995 and from 2,030 to 1,660, respectively, while the percentage of convictions to arrests increased slightly from 82 to 83. The quantity of opium seized fell from 1,075 seers to 894 seers; the decrease was general and is attributable to the scarcity of imported illicit opium and to the continued scrutiny of allowances in the case of shop opium. The most important seizure of the year was one of 363 seers on board a steamer leaving for China, while information supplied to the authorities of Penang led to the seizure of 150 seers on board another steamer.

The allotment of secret service money was reduced from Rs. 6,942 to Rs. 4,374, and the amount expended fell from Rs. 4,208 to Rs. 2,556, of which Rs. 1,972 was spent in opium cases. The actual use made of the allotments was, however, greater than the expenditure indicates, as where rewards are given for information received in consequence of the expenditure the latter is recouped.

Excise :
Liquors.

149. The total quantity of liquors of all sorts imported into Burma again fell from 454,883 gallons to 331,863 gallons, but their value rose from Rs. 26.43 lakhs to Rs. 28.62 lakhs, in consequence of increased taxation in countries of origin and of high freights. Imports of ale, beer and porter fell from 285,270 gallons to 169,358, and of wines from 17,259 gallons to 14,127, while those of potable spirit remained approximately the same at 148,226 gallons. Of ale, beer and porter, the United Kingdom and Japan supplied 95,402 and 71,662 gallons, against 124,065 and 155,711 gallons, respectively, in the previous year. Most of the whisky came from the United Kingdom, of the brandy from France, and of

the rum from Java. The clearances for consumption in Burma of brandy, gin, rum and whisky totalled 100,685 gallons against 102,407 in the previous year. The decreased imports of beer resulted in an increase in the output of the only brewery in the Province from 281,747 gallons to 346,416 gallons and the duty rose to the record figure of Rs. 98,238.

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Burma foreign spirit, that is, liquor manufactured in the Province in imitation of imported liquors, was manufactured at two distilleries in Mandalay and Moulmein. The distillery at Toungoo, having failed to secure a contract for the manufacture of country spirit, ceased working during the year. The quantity of Burma foreign spirit (London-proof) issued on payment of the full duty of Rs. 11-4-0 per gallon rose from 11,572 gallons to 18,600 gallons; at the privileged rate (to troops and Military Police) of Rs. 3-8-3 per gallon from 16,996 gallons to 17,368; and the amount of duty realised rose from Rs. 1-92 lakhs to the record figure of Rs. 2-73 lakhs. From these figures it is clear that the consumption of locally-made foreign spirits is greatly on the increase at the expense of the imported article. The number of wholesale licenses for the sale of foreign liquors including imported liquor and local liquor excised at the tariff rate was 91 as in the previous year. The number of licenses for the retail vend of foreign liquor in public houses fell from 163 to 156, while that of special licenses in hotels, railway refreshment rooms and similar establishments rose from 151 to 157. License fees for the sale of beer fell from Rs. 21,058 to Rs. 15,653 and for the sale of other foreign liquors from Rs. 5-47 lakhs to Rs. 4-24 lakhs. The decrease in the former is due to the decrease in the number of licenses issued, and in the latter to the continued decline in the foreign liquor trade.

The system of supply of country spirit to licensees was, as in previous years, the "Contract Distillery" system. The Salween District was added to the districts under this system, which otherwise remained unchanged. A comprehensive revision of duty came into operation with effect from the beginning of the year of report. The distiller's price, exclusive of duty, per London-proof gallon varied from Re. 1-8-0 to Rs. 2-10-0 and the duty per London-proof gallon varied from Re. 1-4-0 in the Bhamo and Myitkyina Districts to Rs. 9-1-0 in Rangoon Town. The result of the revision of duty was an increase in the average duty per London-proof gallon from Rs. 4-9-1 to Rs. 5-3-6. The issues in London-proof gallons increased from 81,620 gallons to 97,609 gallons, while the duty increased from Rs. 3-75 lakhs to Rs. 5-10 lakhs. Licenses for the vend of country spirit increased by 5 to 154 and the fees from Rs. 2-96 lakhs to Rs. 3-00 lakhs. There were 10 outstills and 21 shops licensed for the vend of outstill spirit in five districts, or a reduction of two stills and three shops as compared with the previous year. Receipts from this source fell from Rs. 20,800 to Rs. 17,530 and formed only 2-1 per cent. of the total receipts from country spirit.

The Madras tree-tax system of excising *tari* (toddy) was, as already mentioned, continued in the Prome District and extended to the other districts of the Pegu Division and to the Henzada District. An extension to the Thayetmyo District was also contemplated, but this was postponed, owing to the paucity of licensed shops. The experiment was, on the whole, successful, and in Rangoon and in the Tharrawaddy and Prome Districts it has reduced the illicit supply of *tari* and is reported to have led to a decrease in drunkenness and in crime due to drink. It has also led to a substantial increase of revenue. The tax on cocoanut palms and on palmyra palms remained unaltered at Rs. 3 per half year per tree and Rs. 2 per year per tree, respectively. The tax on talipots was fixed at Rs. 8 per tree per annum and that on the *dhani* palm (*Nipa fruticans*) at 8 annas per tree per annum. The latter grows on half-tide mud banks in the Hanthawaddy and Insein Districts and is largely tapped for *tari*. The revenue from *tari* in the seven districts under tree-tax increased from Rs. 2-11 lakhs to Rs. 2-61 lakhs. Licenses for the sale of *tari* were issued in the same districts as in the previous year, but they fell in number from 616 to 606. License fees, however, rose from Rs. 7-97 lakhs to Rs. 8-59 lakhs, in spite of the extension of the tree-tax area, which caused a decrease of 21-7 per cent. in the Hanthawaddy District.

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The issue of licenses for vend of country fermented liquor other than *tari* was confined to the same 15 districts in Lower Burma and five districts in Upper Burma as in the previous year. Their number remained the same, namely 366, while the revenue further increased from Rs. 25.94 lakhs to Rs. 28.93 lakhs, which is the highest figure yet recorded. The increase is due to the high price of foreign spirit and beer with which this liquor competes. A large number of samples, both of the liquor and the yeast, were tested by the Chemical Examiner for Customs and Excise at Calcutta, with satisfactory results.

All Municipal and Town Committees continued to act as Excise Advisory Committees during the year and new programmes for the three years beginning on 1st May 1919 were drawn up by these bodies. In only one instance was a proposal made by any such Committee rejected. Outside municipalities and towns local opinion was consulted on proposals to open new shops.

Seizures of country spirit rose from 1,763 gallons to 2,155 gallons, while those of *tari* fell from 4,614 gallons to 3,242 gallons, and of other country fermented liquor from 10,447 gallons to 18,508 gallons. Seizures of foreign liquor were as usual small; those of spirit fell from 56 to 25 gallons, and those of fermented liquor rose from 81 to 107 gallons. For offence relating to country spirit the number of arrests and convictions rose from 2,191 and 1,787 to 2,629 and 2,117, and the percentage of convictions to arrests fell from 82 to 81. There was a marked increase in the Thaton District, where a special effort against illicit distillation was made. For offences relating to country fermented liquor of all classes the number of arrests fell from 4,973 to 4,543, of convictions from 4,072 to 3,642, and the percentage of convictions from 82 to 80. Convictions for drunkenness declined from 3,785 to 3,096, but no satisfactory reason can be given for the decrease. The number of cases reported in which intoxicating liquor was the cause of or contributory to crime rose from 330 to 393. In Lower Burma 35 per cent. of such crime and in Upper Burma 75 per cent. was due to drink obtained from illicit sources or uncontrolled areas.

Ganja,
Cocaine and
Morphia.

150. The number of licenses issued for the possession of hemp drugs for veterinary purposes rose from 20 to 23. The quantity seized during the year rose from 165,896 tolas to 242,997 tolas, or over 2½ tons. Convictions of all kinds in connection with these drugs fell from 721 to 640. No case was reported during the year of Burmans using hemp, and its use is confined to Indians who are accustomed to its licit use in their own country. Proposals for legalising the use of these drugs were still under consideration.

The number of pharmacists' licenses for the vend of cocaine rose by 2 to 45. Seizure fell by 84 per cent. to 52,595 grains, and convictions by 73 per cent. to 109. There was one large seizure of German cocaine in Rangoon, but most of the drug seized was of Japanese origin.

Pharmacists' licenses for the vend of morphia rose by 6 to 51. Seizures fell by 97 per cent. to 1,194 grains, and the number of convictions from 121 to 10, the only two districts affected being Rangoon Town and Prome.

Stamps.

151. There were no changes in the year of report in the law relating to court-fees or stamps, but remission of stamp duty was allowed in the case of receipts granted by holders of Post Office Cash Certificates at the time of their discharge, and also in the case of receipts given for pensions and allowances payable by Government to the heirs of deceased non-commissioned officers or soldiers in respect of service in His Majesty's Army or in His Majesty's Indian Army.

Gross receipts under the Court-fees Act and the Stamp Act rose from Rs. 31.83 lakhs to Rs. 34.78 lakhs. The whole increase was contributed by sales under the Stamp Act, receipts under the Court-fees Act remaining stationary. The appreciable increase in receipts from non-judicial stamps was shared by 26 districts, the increase of nearly Rs. 1 lakh being recorded in Rangoon alone. Improvement in the export trade accounted for the increase in Foreign Bill stamps, whilst improvement in the money market was responsible for the increases from *hundis* (inland bills of exchange) and from share transfer stamps. There were also

numerous transactions in immoveable property, more especially in Rangoon, where it is said that Indian merchants who had made large profits invested extensively in land on finding commercial avenues closed. The total revenue from non-judicial stamps thus rose from Rs. 13'36 lakhs to Rs. 16'32 lakhs. Receipts on account of judicial stamps amounted to Rs. 18'46 lakhs and decreases in 17 districts were counterbalanced by increases in the remaining districts.

The number of licensed stamp vendors fell slightly from 2,159 to 2,117, but the amount of discount earned by them rose from Rs. 38,860 to Rs. 49,998, consequent on the increased sale of non-judicial stamps.

The number of cases of unstamped or insufficiently stamped instruments dealt with under section 35 of the Stamp Act fell from 784 to 766 and the duty and penalty realised from Rs. 8,012 to Rs. 7,750. Those dealt with by Collectors also fell from 439 to 378 and the duty and penalty realised in such cases from Rs. 16,049 to Rs. 8,681. The number of persons tried for offences against the Stamp Law rose from 17 to 45, of whom 38 were convicted. The amount of fines imposed increased from Rs. 394 to Rs. 580 and of rewards disbursed from Rs. 987 to Rs. 1,047. The number of cases in which inquiries into the valuation of estates were instituted rose from 299 to 415, but the amount of deficit court-fees levied fell from Rs. 14,470 to Rs. 4,810. The amount paid as deficit court-fees in 1917-18 was, however, abnormal and included a sum of Rs. 10,207 in a single case in Rangoon.

Charges on account of discount on and establishment for the sale of stamps rose from Rs. 52,027 to Rs. 63,926; refunds from Rs. 31,866 to Rs. 45,657, and the total charges from Rs. 86,147 to Rs. 1,12,108. The net receipts rose from Rs. 30'96 lakhs to Rs. 33'66 lakhs. These figures do not include the cost of general supervision, which rose from Rs. 24,082 to Rs. 25,236; or the cost of stamps, which rose from Rs. 8,139 to Rs. 8,873.

152. The Income-tax Act was extended during the year to all the Shan States, but is not yet in full operation. During the year the appointment of a whole-time Collector of Income-tax for Rangoon was sanctioned by the Secretary of State for India, with the result that considerable improvements were effected in the working of the office and a very large increase of tax was obtained. A new system for the assessment of Chetties was introduced into Rangoon with satisfactory results, the Chetties being assessed on the basis of certain figures supplied to the Collector by a Committee of members of the community.

The Indian Income-tax Act, 1918, was brought into force during the year, and new rules and forms thereunder were issued. The Act was amended by the Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Act, 1919, which repealed the provisions relating to summary assessment and raised the limit of assessment to Rs. 2,000. Special instructions were issued during the year regarding the assessment of Nattukottai Chetties trading in Burma, and the Madras Government will in future decide as to the principal place of business of all firms trading in both Provinces.

Under the head "Tax on Salaries, Pensions and Gratuities paid by Government" the number of assesseees fell by 114 to 5,904, but the amount collected rose from Rs. 5'52 lakhs to Rs. 5'60 lakhs. The total amount collected from assesseees with incomes of less than Rs. 2,000 and who will in future be exempt from assessment was Rs. '86 lakh.

Under the head "Tax on Interest on Securities" the amount collected rose from Rs. '84 lakh to Rs. 1'02 lakhs and the value of the securities taxed from Rs. 4'74 lakhs to Rs. 5'00 lakhs. Securities of the Government of India increased by nearly Rs. 5 lakhs and those of private companies by Rs. 22'50 lakhs.

Under the head "Tax on Salaries, Pensions and Gratuities paid by Local Authorities" the number of assesseees increased by only 6 to 931, but the amount collected rose from Rs. 59,331 to Rs. 64,909.

Under the head "Tax on Salaries paid by Companies and other Private Employers" the number of assesseees rose from 6,492 to 7,130 and the amount of tax collected from Rs. 5'99 lakhs to Rs. 6'91 lakhs. Rangoon was responsible for Rs. 81,345 out of the total increase of Rs. 92,113.

Under the head "Tax on Profits of Companies" the number of companies assessed fell by 20 to 55, but the amount of tax rose from last year's record figure of Rs. 18.94 lakhs to Rs. 33.15 lakhs. The large increase in the amount of tax is due to the fact that several companies, whose registered offices are in England, were assessed for the first time on the whole of the profits arising from their trade in India.

When the classification under the new Act is completely understood, the head "Tax on other sources of income" will become relatively unimportant, but this year in many districts it still included most of what it included under the old Act. The amount collected was Rs. 15.49 lakhs as against Rs. 14.47 lakhs in the previous year, but a comparison of the figures is of little value. In Rangoon, where the classification is more complete than elsewhere, the number of assesses fell from 9,083 to 2,653 and the amount of tax from Rs. 32.30 lakhs to Rs. 7.84 lakhs.

The total number of assesses rose from 28,949 to 29,222 and the net collections, including a sum of Rs. 2.31 lakhs on account of arrears of the previous year, amounted to Rs. 64.97 lakhs as against Rs. 46.36 lakhs in 1917-18. The increase in the collections was almost entirely in Rangoon, and was due to more efficient working, consequent on the appointment of a whole-time Collector of income-tax. The number of petitions and objections decreased considerably from 4,245 to 2,484 and the consequent reduction in assessment was only 2 per cent. as compared with 10 per cent. in the previous year. Expenditure rose from Rs. 61,356 to Rs. 66,597, but most of the work is done by establishments, whose salaries are charged to other heads. Refunds fell from Rs. 96,261 to Rs. 33,357. Of last year's outstandings amounting to Rs. 2.76 lakhs, a sum of Rs. 2.31 lakhs was collected during the year. The balance outstanding at the end of the year of report was Rs. 5.94 lakhs, of which Rs. 5.62 lakhs were in Rangoon. The large increase is due to the dislocation caused by the new Act and consequent delay in assessment. The tax was collected without difficulty and the number of penalties inflicted by Collectors fell from 230 to 119.

There was a very large rise in the amount of super-tax collected from Rs. 1.57 lakhs to Rs. 10.80 lakhs, the increase being due to more efficient administration in Rangoon.

(b) REVENUE AND FINANCE OTHER THAN IMPERIAL.

Provincial Receipts and Expenditure.

Provincial
receipts.

153. The net increase of Rs. 92.97 lakhs in Provincial receipts was the result of a gross increase of Rs. 93.64 lakhs and a gross decrease of Rs. 57 lakh, of which the head Jails accounted for Rs. 61 lakh. The principal contributors to the gross increase were the heads "Land Revenue" (Rs. 63.57 lakhs), "Income-tax" (Rs. 8.96 lakhs), "Transfers between Imperial and Provincial" (Rs. 8.84 lakhs), "Excise" (Rs. 2.29 lakhs), "Stamps" (Rs. 1.48 lakhs), "Ports and Pilotage" (Rs. 2.00 lakhs), "Police" (Rs. 1.69 lakhs) and "Forests" (Rs. 1.67 lakhs). As the revenue under all these heads, except the three last-mentioned, is divided between Imperial and Provincial Funds in accordance with the terms of the Provincial Settlement, the causes of increase have been already dealt with in the earlier portion of this Chapter. The increase under the head "Ports and Pilotage" was due partly to compensation paid by the Military Department for certain launches impressed for service in Mesopotamia, and partly to better receipts from coast-light dues. Forest revenue increased, owing to large supplies of teak being furnished to the Royal Indian Marine and to the Eastern Bengal State Railway. Some outstandings were also recovered from the Admiralty, and there was an expansion of departmental fuel extraction, though this was to some extent counter-balanced by smaller outturns of timber by lessees. The increase under the head "Police" was due to larger recoveries on account of punitive police and to increased receipts on account of fees, fines and forfeitures. The sale-proceeds of articles of jail manufacture declined, owing to a decrease in the jail population.

154. The net increase of Rs. 33'42 lakhs in Provincial expenditure was the result of a gross increase of Rs. 40'84 lakhs, mainly under the heads "Police," "Land Revenue," "Education," "Superannuation and Retired Allowances," "Ports and Pilotage," "Forests," "Medical," "Stationery and Printing" and "Agriculture" and of a gross decrease of Rs. 7'42 lakhs, chiefly under the heads "Civil Works" and "Courts of Law." The expenditure under "Police" rose by Rs. 10'93 lakhs, owing to the Kuki operations and also owing to the creation of two temporary ranges under the charge of Additional Deputy Inspectors-General. The increase of Rs. 10'24 lakhs under the head "Land Revenue" was due to payment of commission on collections deferred from the year 1917-18. An increase of Rs. 7'07 lakhs under "Education" is accounted for, partly by payment of the Imperial grant for the Burma University, and partly by contributions to Local Funds, on account of Vernacular Schools transferred to them. The increase of Rs. 2'39 lakhs in "Superannuation Allowances" is due to the usual growth of pensionary charges and also to larger payments of the commuted value of pensions. Expenditure under the head "Ports and Pilotage" increased by Rs. 2'17 lakhs and under "Stationery" by Rs. 1'20 lakhs, owing to the increased cost of material. Forest expenditure rose by Rs. 2'05 lakhs owing to increased departmental extraction of timber for the Admiralty and of fuel for commercial purposes. Larger grants for hospitals and dispensaries and larger expenditure on the salaries of officers account for an increase of Rs. 1'72 lakhs under the head "Medical." An increase of Rs. 1'08 lakhs under the head "Agriculture" was due to the acquisition of land for the extension of the Victoria Memorial Park in Rangoon. Expenditure on "Civil Works" decreased by Rs. 3'42 lakhs, owing to a smaller outlay on civil buildings and on establishment. A decrease of Rs. 1'08 lakhs under "Courts of Law" was mainly due to smaller expenditure on the salaries of the establishment and on the allowances of witnesses.

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AND
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Provincial
expenditure.

155. The Forest Department Report deals with the year ending on the 30th of June 1919, and the figures of revenue and expenditure given in it therefore differ from those compiled in the Finance Department. The gross revenue of the year ending the 30th June 1919 rose from Rs. 1,26'76 lakhs to Rs. 1,29'48 lakhs. There was an increase in revenue in Lower Burma and a decrease in Upper Burma, due in the former case to increased departmental sales, and in the latter to decreased outturn of teak, owing to lessees holding up logs for want of freight to outside markets. There was a substantial increase in the revenue derived both from timber and other produce extracted by Government agency, the revenue from timber rising by Rs. 6'06 lakhs to Rs. 32'59 lakhs and that from other produce, including fuel, by no less than Rs. 5'80 lakhs to Rs. 7'90 lakhs. The revenue from timber extracted by consumers, on the other hand, declined by Rs. 11'70 lakhs to Rs. 71'45 lakhs, owing to shortage of shipping.

Forests.

Expenditure rose from Rs. 52'80 lakhs to Rs. 59'93 lakhs, the increase being mainly due to more extensive exploitation by departmental agency. The surplus of revenue over expenditure amounted to Rs. 69'54 lakhs, or 54 per cent. of the gross revenue, as compared with Rs. 74 lakhs, or 58 per cent. of the gross revenue in the previous year. The decrease in net revenue is due, partly to an abnormal number of Government teak logs of an estimated value of Rs. 51 lakhs being held up in transit in the Pegu Circle, and partly to lessees in Upper Burma similarly holding up logs and purposely leaving trees unfelled.

Local Funds.

156. A District Cess Fund is maintained for local purposes in each of the 21 districts in Lower Burma. No change took place in the number or constitution of these funds. Their aggregate receipts rose from Rs. 38'05 lakhs to Rs. 46'15 lakhs. "Provincial Rates" rose from Rs. 19'40 lakhs to Rs. 27'96 lakhs, owing to the realisation during the year of report of the arrears of land revenue due in 1917-18, but collection of which was postponed, owing to the difficulty of sale of the rice crop. Receipts under the head "Civil Works" fell from Rs. 18'88 lakhs

District Cess
Funds.

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to Rs. 8.37 lakhs, owing to smaller contributions being given to the Funds of the Tavoy and Mergui Districts.

The aggregate expenditure of these Funds fell from Rs. 45.19 lakhs to Rs. 44.46 lakhs. Expenditure under the head "Debt Accounts" fell from Rs. 2.81 lakhs to Rs. 1.43 lakhs, owing to smaller investments in the Indian War Loan, and there was also a decrease from Rs. 22.96 lakhs to Rs. 22.08 lakhs in the expenditure on "Civil Works in charge of Officers of the Public Works Department," owing to smaller outlay, mainly in the Irrawaddy Division. Expenditure on "Provincial Rates" rose by Rs. .61 lakh to Rs. 1.07 lakhs, owing to payment of commission on the collections of land revenue postponed from 1917-18, and there was an increase from Rs. 1.18 lakhs to Rs. 1.53 lakhs under the head "Sanitation," owing to increased expenditure on vaccination. Larger outlay on improvements to towns and on the acquisition of land for public purposes was responsible for an increase from Rs. 1.06 lakhs to Rs. 1.31 lakhs under the head "Civil Works in charge of Civil Officers."

All the funds were solvent at the end of the year and their aggregate closing balance rose from Rs. 19.37 lakhs to Rs. 21.06 lakhs.

District
Funds.

157. A District Fund is maintained for local purposes in each of the 16 districts in Upper Burma. These funds are not endowed, as the Lower Burma District Cess Funds are, with a cess on land revenue, but derive their income from various sources, such as bazaar-rents, slaughter-house licenses, ferries and contributions from Provincial funds. Their aggregate receipts during the year rose from Rs. 12.67 lakhs to Rs. 23.73 lakhs, the very large increase of Rs. 11.06 lakhs being due to enhanced contributions from Provincial Funds under the heads "Civil Works in charge of Civil Officers" and "Education." In the case of "Education" increased contributions were necessitated by the decision of Government to transfer the administration of Vernacular Education to local bodies.

The aggregate expenditure of these funds rose from Rs. 12.60 lakhs to Rs. 16.34 lakhs, the increase being almost entirely due to larger expenditure on "Education," consequent on the above-mentioned transfer of Vernacular Education. There was a decrease of Rs. .56 lakh under the head "Miscellaneous," owing to smaller contributions to Municipal and other Local Funds, but other fluctuations were unimportant. All District Funds were solvent at the end of the year and their aggregate closing balance rose from Rs. 2.87 lakhs to Rs. 10.27 lakhs.

Other
Funds.

158. The other local funds in Burma comprise the Cantonment, Town, Port, Pilot, Educational Syndicate, Rangoon Police Reward, Boiler Inspection and Burma University Funds.

The number of Cantonment Funds was seven as in the previous year in Rangoon, Mandalay, Meiktila, Shwebo, Thayetmyo, Maymyo and Bhamo. Their aggregate receipts rose from Rs. 2.14 lakhs to Rs. 2.35 lakhs and their aggregate expenditure from Rs. 2.01 lakhs to Rs. 2.28 lakhs. In Rangoon the income rose from Rs. .84 lakh to Rs. 1.02 lakhs, owing to the sale of a building and to increased revenue from "Assessed Taxes," while expenditure increased from Rs. .81 lakh to Rs. .90 lakh, the increase being common to all heads. In Mandalay the receipts rose from Rs. 71,022 to Rs. 90,179 and expenditure from Rs. 70,473 to Rs. 88,136, mainly owing to larger outlay on "Public Works." In Meiktila the receipts and expenditure were Rs. 7,601 and Rs. 8,335 as against Rs. 9,064 and Rs. 10,142, respectively, in the previous year. In Shwebo also the receipts and expenditure both fell from Rs. 6,127 to Rs. 5,663 and from Rs. 6,634 to Rs. 6,145, respectively. In Thayetmyo the income fell from Rs. 11,625 to Rs. 3,379, owing to smaller receipts under the head "Land Revenue" and to the non-receipt of grants from the General Officer Commanding. On the other hand, expenditure rose slightly from Rs. 6,472 to Rs. 7,345. In Maymyo the income fell by Rs. 3,486 to Rs. 15,629, owing to small grants being received from the General Officer Commanding, but the expenditure rose from Rs. 18,098 to Rs. 18,473. In Bhamo the receipts and expenditure were Rs. 9,840 and Rs. 9,854 as against Rs. 13,090 and Rs. 8,392, respectively, in the previous year. The decrease in receipts was due to a considerable reduction in the amount of grants made by

the General Officer Commanding. All Cantonment Funds were solvent at the end of the year and their aggregate closing balance rose from Rs. 38,580 to Rs. 46,767.

The number of Town Funds was 22 as in the previous year. The total income of these funds rose from Rs. 9.69 lakhs to Rs. 9.74 lakhs and their total expenditure from Rs. 8.63 lakhs to Rs. 10.97 lakhs. Increased Government contributions for educational purposes were mainly responsible for increased receipts in the case of the Nattalin, Yenangyaung, Meiktila, Pyawbwe, Pyu, Kalaw and Mawlamyainggyun Town Funds, while reduced contributions from Government accounted for decreased receipts in the cases of Zigon and Danubyu. In Maymyo there was also a marked decrease in income, owing to smaller receipts under debt heads. The expenditure of the year exceeded the receipts in the case of 12 Town Funds and the aggregate closing balance consequently fell from Rs. 4.68 lakhs to Rs. 3.44 lakhs. All the Town Funds were, however, solvent at the close of the year.

Excluding the Rangoon Port Trust, there were as before six Port Funds at Bassein, Moulmein, Akyab, Mergui, Tavoy and Kyaukpadaung. Their total receipts and expenditure were Rs. 4.40 lakhs and Rs. 4.18 lakhs as compared with Rs. 3.95 lakhs and Rs. 3.63 lakhs, respectively, in the previous year. There was an increase of receipts in all funds, except Tavoy, and an increase of expenditure in all, except Mergui. The aggregate closing balance of these funds rose from Rs. 2.42 lakhs to Rs. 2.64 lakhs. The debt due to Government by the Moulmein Port Fund fell from Rs. .52 lakh to Rs. .46 lakh and by the Tavoy Port Fund from Rs. .67 lakh to Rs. .52 lakh.

As in the preceding year, there were four Pilot Funds at Rangoon, Akyab, Bassein and Moulmein. Their receipts were derived chiefly from pilotage-fees, and the expenditure consisted mainly of cost of maintenance of pilot vessels and payments to pilots. The ordinary receipts of the Rangoon Pilot Funds rose from Rs. 2.91 lakhs to Rs. 3.69 lakhs, and the ordinary expenditure from Rs. 2.92 lakhs to Rs. 3.57 lakhs. With the object of improving the financial stability of this fund revised rates of pilotage-fees were introduced with effect from the 1st June 1919. The amount at the credit of the reserve fund known as the "Pilot Vessels' Depreciation Fund" rose from Rs. 2.26 lakhs to Rs. 2.35 lakhs. The aggregate receipts of the other three funds rose from Rs. .90 lakh to Rs. .95 lakh, but their aggregate closing balance fell from Rs. 12,403 to Rs. 10,830, owing to expenditure exceeding receipts in the case of the Bassein Fund.

The receipts and expenditure of the Rangoon Police Reward Fund were Rs. 349 and Rs. 286, respectively, as against Rs. 509 and Rs. 493 in the previous year. The receipts of the fund consisted of fines recovered from policemen and undischarged rewards and were utilised in rewarding good service on the part of policemen.

The receipts of the Steam-boiler Inspection Fund rose from Rs. .81 lakh to Rs. 1.03 lakhs and the expenditure from Rs. .75 lakh to Rs. 1.08 lakhs. The receipts were derived mainly from inspection and examination fees, and the expenditure chiefly represented establishment charges. The closing balance of the fund fell from Rs. .89 lakh to Rs. .24 lakh.

The income of the Educational Syndicate Fund rose from Rs. 51,605 to Rs. 52,608, of which Rs. 21,800 was contributed by Government and Rs. 500 by the Rangoon Municipality, and the rest was derived from examination fees, etc. The expenditure fell slightly from Rs. 53,143 to Rs. 52,711 and the closing balance also declined by Rs. 102 to Rs. 15,472.

The Burma University Fund was constituted during the year, but there were no transactions and the opening and closing balances were the same, namely Rs. 3.78 lakhs.

Road and Education Cesses.

159. In Burma petty local public works are carried out and contributions to the cost of education are made by the District Cess and District Funds reported on in paragraphs 155 and 157. No special cesses for these purposes are levied in the Province.

Municipal Revenues.

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Rangoon
Municipality.

160. The gross receipts of the year of report, including the opening balance of Rs. 1·91 lakhs, rose from Rs. 48·86 lakhs to Rs. 54·58 lakhs. Excluding the opening balance, advance and deposits, the total ordinary income of the year was Rs. 48·92 lakhs and exceeded the total ordinary receipts for 1917-18 by Rs. 2·61 lakhs. The increase was principally due to larger receipts on account of rates and taxes, rents of land and houses, fees from markets and slaughter-houses, pawnshop license fees and interest on sinking fund investments.

The gross expenditure amounted to Rs. 52·43 lakhs and exceeded that of the previous year by Rs. 5·48 lakhs. Excluding charges on works paid from loans and the figures under the suspense account, the ordinary expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 43·23 lakhs as compared with Rs. 41·14 lakhs in the preceding year. The amount advanced from revenue during the year to finance works for which loans are to be raised was Rs. 4·85 lakhs, thus raising the total of such advances to Rs. 24·19 lakhs. The closing balance was Rs. 2·12 lakhs.

The fluctuations under the various detailed heads of income and expenditure have been already explained in paragraph 70 of this Report.

Excluding loans raised for the Town Lands Reclamation Fund the loans outstanding at the close of the financial year fell from Rs. 1,31·15 lakhs to Rs. 1,30·58 lakhs. The yearly instalment of Rs. 57,500 towards the repayment of the loan of Rs. 23 lakhs raised in 1887 was paid during the year. The loan charges for the year rose from Rs. 10·06 lakhs to Rs. 10·27 lakhs, and included, besides the instalment already mentioned, Rs. 5·78 lakhs of interest, Rs. 2·83 lakhs of Sinking Fund and Rs. 8,839 of management charges.

From the amount available for the annual investment for sinking funds and the interest realised on securities the Municipality purchased Indian War Loan 5 per cent. bonds of the face value of Rs. 15,900 and Indian War Loan 5½ per cent. bonds of the face value of Rs. 3,66,600. The face value of the securities in the sinking fund (excluding those of the sinking fund for reclamation loans) at the end of the year rose from Rs. 36·71 lakhs to Rs. 40·53 lakhs. Owing to depreciation of securities, there was a deficiency of Rs. 5·31 lakhs in the sinking funds constituted for the repayment of Municipal and Reclamation Fund loans. In view of the uncertainty as to the probable future course of prices of Government paper, and as to the rate of interest that will be earned by future investments in the Sinking Funds, it was decided to make full provision for the repayment of loans maturing between 1920 and 1923, and to defer consideration of the deficiencies in the Sinking Fund for loans due for repayment in subsequent years until more experience of the actual working of *post-bellum* conditions has been gained.

The sum of the loans raised for reclamation purposes remained at Rs. 60·50 lakhs and the amount in the sinking fund rose from Rs. 13·95 lakhs to Rs. 16·39 lakhs. Receipts for the year of report fell from Rs. 9·17 lakhs to Rs. 6·55 lakhs, including a contribution of Rs. 5·80 lakhs from the Land Sale and Rent Fund, and the total expenditure rose from Rs. 7·19 lakhs to Rs. 8·05 lakhs, of which Rs. 2·63 lakhs were spent on works, Rs. 2·55 lakhs on interest and management of loans and Rs. 2·75 lakhs on sinking fund investments. The drop in receipts was mainly due to no contribution being received from Provincial funds during the year of report as against Rs. 2·37 lakhs in the previous year. The increase in expenditure was due to larger outlay on works and to larger investments in the Sinking fund. The closing balance at the end of the year fell from Rs. 2·88 lakhs to Rs. 1·38 lakhs.

Other Muni-
cipalities.

161. Excluding debt accounts amounting to Rs. 1·98 lakhs and opening balances amounting to Rs. 16·80 lakhs, the aggregate ordinary income of the 44 Municipalities in the Province (omitting Rangoon) rose from Rs. 44·24 lakhs in 1917-18 to Rs. 50·57 lakhs in the year of report, this being the highest figure recorded during the past 17 years. The income derived from municipal rates and taxes rose from Rs. 18·72 lakhs to Rs. 19·00 lakhs; that derived from municipal

from grants and contributions from Rs. 4.42 lakhs to Rs. 8.45 lakhs; that realised under special acts from Rs. 59 lakh to Rs. 61 lakh and that under "Extraordinary and Debt" fell from Rs. 2.54 lakhs to Rs. 1.98 lakhs. Increased grants and contributions from Government for general, educational and medical purposes were mainly responsible for the increase of approximately Rs. 6 lakhs in the total income. Variations under other heads of revenue in individual municipalities were unimportant. Arrears of taxes outstanding at the close of the year fell from Rs. 41,746 to Rs. 38,553, including Rs. 10,872 in Toungoo, Rs. 7,784 in Akyab and Rs. 5,824 in Mandalay.

The total ordinary expenditure of these minor municipalities rose from Rs. 41.99 lakhs to Rs. 42.59 lakhs. General administration and collection charges increased from Rs. 3.63 lakhs to Rs. 4.33 lakhs, chiefly owing to the refund by the Moulmein and Myingyan Municipalities of contributions received from Government for sanitary projects. Expenditure on "Public Health and Convenience" fell by Rs. 1.23 lakhs to Rs. 30.35 lakhs, mainly owing to the completion of the new hospital at Toungoo, on which a sum of Rs. 91,000 was spent in the previous year, and also owing to smaller expenditure on roads and bridges. Expenditure under the head "Public Instruction" rose from Rs. 1.83 lakhs to Rs. 2.74 lakhs, chiefly owing to increased educational expenditure by the municipalities of Upper Burma. Expenditure under the head "Extraordinary and Debt" fell from Rs. 4.82 lakhs to Rs. 4.10 lakhs, owing to the inclusion in the previous year's figures of the repayment of a loan of Rs. 78 lakh by the Bassein Municipality.

Two cases of embezzlement and one case of temporary misappropriation of Municipal funds were discovered during the year, but the money lost was all recovered.

Other Funds.

162. Owing to the addition of a new fund during the year, there are now six Educational Endowment Funds, namely the Jardine, the Maung Ohn Ghine, the Renoung, the Coplestone, the U Po Hnit and the Hajee Esoof Bymeab Funds. These funds do not bank with Government and their accounts do not therefore appear in the Government books. The accounts of the Official Assignee are similarly excluded.

Paper Currency.

163. The average gross circulation of notes during the year rose from Rs. 6,24.57 lakhs to Rs. 9,52.44 lakhs. At the end of April 1918 the gross circulation was Rs. 6,99.98 lakhs; it fell to a minimum of Rs. 6,47.62 lakhs on the 29th June 1918, and rose to a maximum of Rs. 16,43.70 lakhs on the 7th February 1919. Excluding from the gross circulation the value of notes of the Rs. 10,000 denomination in order to arrive at the active circulation, the latter on the last day of each month averaged Rs. 8,77.06 lakhs as compared with Rs. 5,09.47 lakhs in 1917-18. The increase is due partly to the use of notes in place of silver for trade purposes and partly to a brisker trade in paddy. The percentage of circulation of notes of the Rs. 10 denomination to the circulation of all kinds of notes was 53.71 per cent. at the end of March 1919, as compared with 57.04 per cent. at the end of March 1918. The percentage of Rs. 100 notes to the total note circulation also fell from 37.19 on the 31st March 1918 to 29.28 on the 31st March 1919, and that of Rs. 1,000 notes from 2.85 to 1.42 per cent., but that of Rs. 5 notes rose from 1.95 to 3.31 per cent. Notes of the Re. 1 and Rs. 2-8 denominations were issued from the Currency Office for the first time towards the end of March 1918, and at the end of that month the total value of these notes in circulation was Rs. 1.02 lakhs. At the end of March 1919 the value of Re. 1 notes in circulation amounted to Rs. 1,42.91 lakhs and of Rs. 2-8 notes to Rs. 8.88 lakhs, and notes of these two denominations have supplied more than 11 per cent. of the total volume of currency.

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A noticeable feature of the year was the depreciation of paper currency throughout the Province. In view of the reduced stocks of silver, District Officers were requested to make every effort to conserve the rupee and half-rupee balances at treasuries and sub-treasuries by making free use of the new notes of the Re. 1 and Rs. 2-8-0 denominations, which were intended to replace rupees as far as possible in every-day transactions. Treasury balances in whole rupees were kept down to the lowest possible figure, and it was directed that every surplus rupee should be transferred to the currency chest, so that it might be available for remittance to Rangoon, if required for maintenance of the convertibility of notes at the Rangoon Currency Office, where alone a legal obligation rests on Government to meet its notes in silver. During the busy season telegraphic transfers were uniformly paid in notes, except where payment had to be made for wages of labour. Facilities for the encashment of notes at treasuries having at the same time been further curtailed, it was realised that some depreciation of paper money was unavoidable, and the policy adopted was to devise measures for the alleviation of distress amongst the poorer classes and to prevent discount on notes of the lower values as far as possible. In the beginning the discount on notes was confined to Upper Burma, where the note circulation had not hitherto made much headway, and the position was not serious during the slack season, the rate of discount being limited to about Rs. 2 per Rs. 100 and being more generally Re. 1 or Re. 1-4. But a large volume of notes having passed into circulation in payment of deliveries of paddy and other crops, the discount during the busy season became more general and rose to as much as 10 per cent. in some places. In order to minimise the hardship involved, District Officers were directed to keep the issue of silver under control and to see that their available stock was distributed in small quantities at a time. Encashment was permitted to the extent of Rs. 20 or Rs. 30 in the case of cultivators and other small holders, subject to a daily maximum limit of Rs. 100 for individual applicants, and from December 1918 onwards practically no rupees were released at treasuries for purposes of trade. The object of these measures was to restore confidence and thus to reduce the discount of notes of the smaller denominations. The preference given by cultivators to buyers who were in a position to pay in silver, was, however, a serious obstacle. Agricultural produce was sold at different rates, one for silver and the other for notes, the extra charge in the case of payments in paper being from 5 to 10 per cent. in some districts. For a time trafficking in silver, to be exchanged for notes in the interior of the Province, was carried on to a considerable extent by certain persons, who cashed notes in the Currency Office and then succeeded in conveying the silver into the districts by rail or steam-launch, in spite of the prohibition against its transport. This was a profitable business and the persons engaged therein endeavoured to maintain high rates of discount by playing on the fears and prejudices of ignorant people. The situation was also aggravated by a simultaneous scarcity of small coins, and a discount of 2 annas in the one-rupee note became general. The difficulty was, however, met to some extent by issuing larger supplies of small coin obtained from Calcutta, and in the month of June 1919 the position was that the demand for small coin in exchange for the one-rupee note was being fully met, both at Rangoon and at the District Treasuries.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICES.

REFERENCES—

- Report on the Sanitary Administration of Burma for the year 1918.
Notes and Statistics on Hospitals and Dispensaries in Burma for the year 1918.
Report on the Working of the Burma Government Medical School, Rangoon, for the year 1918-19.
Report on the Working of the Pasteur Institute and Bacteriological Laboratory for the year ending 31st March 1919.
Note on the Lunatic Asylums in Burma for the year 1918.
Notes and Statistics on Vaccination in Burma for the year 1918-19.
Statistical Abstract for British India, Volume III.

Births and Deaths.

164. The total area and population under registration remained the same as in 1917; but, owing to the constitution of Pyu and Mawlamyainggyun as notified areas, the rural population was reduced to 8,705,663, and the urban population raised to 1,118,727. Area under registration and total population.

165. The total number of births registered was 324,308, or 31,828 less than in 1917. Towns returned 31,015 births, a decrease of 1,215; and rural areas 293,293, the deficiency being 30,616. The excess of male over female births was 7 per cent. in Lower Burma and 3 per cent. in Upper Burma. Fewer births than deaths were registered in nearly all districts, the excess of deaths being most marked in the Prome, Mandalay and Kyaukse Districts and in Rangoon Town. The provincial birth-rate was 33.01; that of Lower Burma 31.62 and of Upper Burma 35.29. Some part of the decrease in registered births was doubtless due to the influenza epidemic, which caused the death of many pregnant women. The rural birth-rates for the Province and for Lower and Upper Burma, respectively, were 23.67, 32.69 and 35.25, against 37.14, 36.99 and 37.37, the corresponding ratios for the previous year; and the urban rates for the corresponding areas were 27.72, 24.45 and 35.74 in 1918, against 27.07, 24.07 and 34.32, the means of the previous five years. The total number of deaths registered was 388,906, of which Lower Burma returned 239,225 and Upper Burma 149,681. The provincial total was 140,305 deaths above the return for 1917, and there was also a net increase on the previous five years' mean of 139,938. The enormous excess mortality was for the most part due to the influenza epidemic, which first became serious in July and continued to be responsible for heavy mortality till December. This heavy mortality raised the provincial death-ratio to 39.59, as compared with a five years' mean of 25.28. The provincial rural death-rate was 37.82, the Lower Burma rate 37.59, and the Upper Burma rate 38.17, and the increase over the mean of the previous five years, 13.91, 15.33 and 11.67, respectively. The provincial urban death-rate was 53.36, against the five years' mean of 36.17, a rise of 17.19. The Lower Burma urban death-rate, 49.95, showed a rise of 16.13 on the mean, and the Upper Burma rate, 61.71, a rise of 19.87. The provincial infantile mortality rate was 271.24, the rural rate was 264.49 and the urban 335.13. The Lower Burma rates were 242.75 (rural) and 290.57 (urban) and those of Upper Burma 295.99 (rural) and 409.03 (urban). The Rangoon Society for the Promotion of Infant Welfare employs 8 midwives and 1 medically qualified lady visitor. The number of confinements attended was 1,349, of which 997 were among Burmese women. Number of births and deaths.

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Similar societies at Mandalay, Moulmein and Thabto are doing useful work and new societies have been started at Toungoo and Taunggyingyi. The Committee of the Sagaing Maternity Ward report 80 admissions to the ward in 1918, which is somewhat less than in the two preceding years.

Causes of
death.

166. The registered mortality for different causes in 1918 is compared below with the figures for 1917:—

Causes.	1918.	1917.
Cholera	4,169	1,914
Small-pox	750	559
Plague	8,840	6,524
Fevers	180,512	81,300
Dysentery and Diarrhoea	11,216	8,485
Respiratory Diseases	13,270	9,722
Suicide	214	200
Wounding or accident	1,894	1,893
Snake bite or attack by wild beasts	1,747	1,800
Rabies	98	61
All other causes	156,496	136,516
Total	388,906	218,601

The increase of 140,305 deaths over the total of 1917 is distributed amongst almost all the main heads of registration. Of the total number of deaths from cholera, 3,713 were returned by Lower Burma and 556 by Upper Burma. Rural areas returned 3,233 and urban areas 1,036 deaths. The mortality from small-pox was fairly evenly divided among the three divisions of Pegu, Irrawaddy and Tenasserim in Lower Burma, while the whole of Upper Burma returned only 42 deaths. Plague accounted for 5,185 deaths in Lower Burma, and 3,655 deaths in Upper Burma. As in former years mortality occurred mainly in towns, which returned 7,020 deaths against 1,826 in rural areas. During the year, 97,842 doses of plague prophylactic were distributed to Civil Surgeons, Health Officers and Jail Superintendents and 85,239 inoculations were performed. The fever death-rate for the Province was enhanced by influenza deaths to 19.29 against 8.17, the previous five years' mean, and 8.28 for 1917. The rural rate was 20.01 against 8.86 in 1917 and the urban rate 13.72 against 3.69.

Influenza was recognised in Rangoon late in June or early in July, and was definitely traced, in many instances, to travellers who came to Rangoon from India at that time. The general mortality, which was little above the mean in June, commenced to rise steadily in the week ending July 20th. From that time onward influenza was recorded as a cause of mortality, and deaths continued to be ascribed to this disease in increasing numbers. The first wave of increased mortality culminated about August 10th, but there was only a slight remission, and the same level was regained by September 21st. The crest of the second wave at 148 per mille of population per annum was reached on November 2nd, a fairly flat level being maintained between October 12th and that date. Thereafter there was a rapid fall, and an even weekly rate of between 50 and 60 deaths per mille per annum was maintained to the end of the year. Movements of travellers by rail and river-boats rapidly spread the infection far and wide throughout the Province. Pilgrims and visitors returning from religious festivals and fairs, were in many instances responsible for the rapid dissemination of the infection over wide areas, and in towns and villages house to house visits and the congregation of persons at places of business were the principal means by which infection spread. Attendants on patients contracted the infection in the majority of cases. No instances are cited of the carriage of infection by clothing or other effects, or of its transmission by the air or dust of rooms recently occupied by influenza patients. It was generally noticed that malarious districts suffered more heavily than those in which the mean fever death-rate is low. The infection spread to every part of the Province, and the unregistered areas of Upper Burma and the Shan States and Chin Hills suffered as severely as other parts of Burma. The disease was prevalent in Myitkyina town and district from August till October, whence it spread to the Kachin Hills and was carried to Putao by October. Loimwe and Kengtung were infected towards the end of the year.

In all these areas mortality was heavy, the majority of the inhabitants contracted the disease, and it is doubtful if a single village entirely escaped infection. The mean annual mortality in Burma returned as due to non-epidemic diseases including fevers, for the five years 1913-17 was 232,600. In 1918 it was 371,094, or an increase of 138,494, which gives a ratio per mille of 14.10, and this may be accepted as approximately the influenza death-rate in registered areas in Burma. Allowing for a certain number of unregistered deaths in these areas, and for the heavy mortality in unregistered areas, it is probable that the excess mortality from influenza and its complications did not total less than 500,000 up to 31st December 1918. The female death-rate relatively to the male death-rate showed a less proportional increase on the mean at ages five to ten years, but a materially greater proportional increase at ages ten to fifteen, fifteen to twenty and twenty to forty. The relatively great increase in female mortality at ages fifteen to forty years appears to be closely associated with the effects produced by influenza upon women during pregnancy and child-birth.

The rapidly increasing mortality in Rangoon attracted the attention of the higher authorities. The Contagious Diseases Hospital was thrown open for the admission of influenza cases, 140 beds being made available for their accommodation. But this measure met only a part of the demand and the Municipal Committee of Rangoon, impressed by the urgency of the situation, organized two emergency hospitals, eventually providing 85 beds. These were available for use by the second week in October and were constantly filled. Motor transport was provided for the sick, and ten dispensaries were equipped in various parts of the town to supply advice and medicine to the less serious cases. The number of in-door patients treated at the Municipal hospitals between 13th October and 30th November was 564, and the number of out-door patients that obtained relief 3,949. The situation was complicated by the constant arrival of large numbers of passengers by sea from India, scores of whom were found to be suffering from the disease on arrival, while many more had already been infected on the voyage. When the magnitude and severity of the epidemic was recognized, the Local Government prepared and distributed warning and advisory pamphlets in several vernaculars to all classes of the population. Steps were also taken to close places of entertainment where large crowds assemble, and to postpone celebrations at pagoda festivals, fairs and similar gatherings, by which the infection of influenza was frequently spread far and wide. A certain measure of segregation was found practicable in military cantonments, especially among British troops. At Maymyo this measure was successful in protecting the rank and file to a very considerable extent from contracting the infection. The jails at Meiktila, Mogoke and Bhamo escaped entirely. This they probably owe to their isolation, and to precautionary and disciplinary measures adopted.

167. No considerable issue of quinine sulphate was made during the year, its place being taken by substitutes, *viz.* residual alkaloid and cinchona febrifuge. These were obtained from the Bengal and Madras Government factories. Of the former drug 32,725 packets and of the latter 3,479 packets, or a total of 36,208 packets in all, were manufactured at the Rangoon Central Jail (each packet is estimated to contain the therapeutical equivalent of 400 grains of quinine sulphate in the form of tablets of five grains or one grain each). The issue to Treasury Officers and others amounted to 35,159 packets, of which 84 contained quinine sulphate, 2,349 cinchona febrifuge and 32,725 residual alkaloid. The issue in 1917 was 32,283 packets of all drugs. Sales by Treasury Officers amounted to 36,475 packets against 45,305 in 1917. A free distribution of 302,600 grains, equivalent to 756½ packets, was also made. Quinine

Emigration and Immigration.

168. The total number of immigrants returned at five ports of Burma, *viz.* Akyab, Rangoon, Moulmein, Tavoy and Mergui, was 259,922, and of emigrants 234,237. The returns for the ports of Bassein and Kyaukpyu are blank. There were 36,789 more immigrants, and 2,947 fewer emigrants in 1918 than in the previous year. At Akyab and Mergui both immigrants and emigrants showed a

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numerical increase on the 1917 figures, while at Rangoon and Moulmein emigrants decreased in number.

Medical Relief

Hospitals
and dispen-
saries.

169. Six new institutions were opened and eighteen institutions were closed during the year: thus at the end of the year, there were 262 hospitals and dispensaries as against 274 in 1917.

Attendance
and
treatment.

170. The number of patients treated at various institutions totalled 1,851,903 as against 1,867,529 in 1917. Of the aggregate number treated during the year, 75,793 were in-patients and 1,776,110 out-patients as compared with 69,403 and 1,798,126, respectively, in the preceding year.

The chief diseases treated in order of prevalence were:—

All diseases of the digestive system other than Dyspepsia, Diarrhoea, Hepatic diseases and Appendicitis.

Malaria.

All diseases of the respiratory system, except Pneumonia and Tubercle of the lungs. Ulcers.

Diseases of the skin.

Injuries—general and local.

Diseases of the eye.

Dyspepsia.

Diseases of the ear.

All infective diseases other than those specified under separate headings.

Diseases of the connective tissue.

Rheumatic Fever and Rheumatism.

Pyrexia of uncertain origin.

Diarrhoea.

Diseases of the Nervous System.

There were 752 cases of Cholera, 1,461 cases of Plague and 369 cases of Small-pox against 347, 1,013 and 435 cases, respectively, in the year previous. There were 5,779 deaths among in-door patients treated during the year, the death rate being 7.62 per cent. against 5.77 per cent. in 1917.

The attendance of Burmese and other indigenous races shows a steady increase from year to year. According to sexes the attendance of females of all Asiatic races was poor, though it is somewhat encouraging in the case of Burmese women. Three hundred and seventy-nine persons underwent a full course of anti-rabic treatment at the Burma Pasteur Institute, Rangoon.

General.

171. Expenditure for medical relief amounted to Rs. 20,18,227 as against Rs. 20,09,847 in 1917. The number of sanctioned appointments tenable by Officers of the Indian Medical Service in Burma was 35. To fill up vacancies created by the surrender to the Military Department of most of these officers, makeshift arrangements had to be resorted to, such as combining the duties of two or more appointments and employing Private Practitioners, retired Officers of the Indian Medical Service and Civil Assistant Surgeons. The sanctioned number of Civil Sub-Assistant Surgeons was 381 and the number actually on the rolls on the last day of the year was 396. Twenty one of these, however, volunteered during the year for general Military Service, while eight others were deputed for military duty in India. Eight midwife pupils successfully underwent training in midwifery at the Dufferin Hospital, Rangoon. Special instruction in the prophylactic and curative treatment of simple cases of Ophthalmia in the new-born has been added as one of the subjects of the course of training given to Results-System Midwives, and Midwives already in service in the Mofussil have been similarly specially instructed in this important subject by Civil Surgeons and their Assistants. Fifteen Burmese and Karen nurses qualified after being fully trained in sicknursing from the Rangoon General Hospital in 1918.

Medical School.—The number of students on the rolls at the Burma Government Medical School, Rangoon, was 107, excluding 40 new admissions. Of these, 16 (including six who volunteered for Military Service) passed out

duly qualified, five discontinued their studies and one died, leaving 125 students on the rolls on the 31st March 1919. It is gratifying to note that, with one exception, all the new admissions possess the requisite educational qualifications. The total amount expended for the upkeep of the Burma Government Medical School was Rs. 75,489 as against Rs. 61,288 in the previous year.

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MEDICAL
SERVICES.

172. The number of inmates of the Rangoon and Minbu Lunatic Asylums at the end of the year showed an increase from 933 in 1917 to 1,032. The daily average strength was 816.28 against 752.37 in 1917. In the Rangoon Lunatic Asylum overcrowding continued, and want of space added to want of buildings have rendered satisfactory arrangements difficult. The percentage of mortality to daily average strength showed a slight increase of 1.06 over the corresponding figure of the year previous. It was nevertheless much below the death-rates returned for asylums in India. The total amount expended for the up-keep of both the asylums amounted to Rs. 1,89,769 as against Rs. 1,99,739 in 1917. In Rangoon the total average cost per head was Rs. 164 against Rs. 171 in 1917. In Minbu the average cost per head of the population similarly fell from Rs. 118 in 1917 to Rs. 115 in the year of report. The Manufacturing Department continued to work at a profit of Rs. 23,284 as against Rs. 24,207 in 1917.

Lunatic
Asylums.

Sanitation.

173. A meeting of the Divisional Sanitary Board was held in December at Mawlaik at which the progress report submitted by the Assistant Engineer on Mawlaik buildings and works, sanctioned and funded, was considered. Though work was somewhat impeded by lack of transport and labour and by the death of a contractor, still considerable progress was made in the clearing of the Civil Station and the erection of the Court-house. The Board made several recommendations as regards details of works not yet carried out.

Principal
works and
expenditure.

Ma-ubin, which formerly obtained its domestic water-supply from the Irrawaddy River, was, with effect from the 1st April 1918, provided with a supply from two 6-inch tube-wells recently completed to a depth of 200 feet. Water of good quality is obtained and the average consumption is 52,000 gallons a day. At Henzada two tube-wells were sunk during the year, but both attempts failed to find potable water. At Zigon a tube-well was sunk to a depth of 1,200 feet with a similar result, and had to be abandoned. At Yenangyaung three tube-wells were put down with successful results. At Pyawbwe the experimental tube-well between 600 and 700 feet deep proved a failure. An experimental infiltration well at Kyaukse also did not prove successful.

Proposals for the lay-out of Yonthalin, Aingthabyu (Lemyethna) and Kyangin in the Henzada District, Pyuntaza in the Pegu District, and Mawlamyainggyun Binmò and Wakema in the Myaungmya District, received criticism. In Rangoon 20.75 acres of land were reclaimed, 29.11 acres were laid out with roads, and 6.46 acres equipped with a sewerage system.

The total amount spent on sanitary works was Rs. 49,34,364, of which Rs. 43,48,103 were spent in towns and Rs. 5,86,261 in districts. Municipal Committees spent 10.16 per cent. of their income on water-supply, 6.65 per cent. on drainage, 14.16 per cent. on conservancy, and 9.27 per cent. on other sanitary works; while District Cess and District Funds spent only 7.12 per cent. of their income on such works.

Vaccination.

174. The vaccination establishment employed during the year of report, under 42 District Superintendents of Vaccination (Civil Surgeons), and 28 Sub-Assistant Surgeons, comprised 39 Supervisors of Vaccination, 3 Head Vaccinators and 321 Vaccinators. The staff was increased by the addition of 1 Assistant Surgeon and 1 Sub-Assistant Surgeon in Yenangyaung and Mawlamyainggyun towns, respectively. One additional Supervisor and 6 additional Vaccinators were

Establish-
ment.

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appointed in the Myaungmya District. One permanent Vaccinator each was appointed for Mawlamyanggyun and Pyu towns, 2 for Bassein Municipality, and 3 for the Northern Shan States at the cost of State funds. Two female Registrar-Vaccinators in Rangoon Municipality were for the first time included in the staff of Vaccinators. There was a decrease of 7 temporary Vaccinators in Mergui Municipality and District following the cessation of the small-pox epidemic in that District. Fifteen permanent and temporary Vaccinators were either removed or dismissed from the service. Two Supervisors of Vaccination died and 2 resigned.

Number of
operations.

175. Out of 561,639 persons vaccinated by the special staff, 303,055 were males and 258,584 females. In addition to these numbers, 3,704 persons were vaccinated at hospitals and dispensaries, 25,257 in jails and 1,032 by private agency, making a total number of 591,632 persons as compared with 519,553 in 1917-18.

The total number of operations performed by the special staff, including those done by "Other Agencies," was 563,020 against 492,008 in 1917-18. In primary vaccinations (423,552) there was a decrease on the previous year's total of 5,865, while re-vaccinations (139,468) showed an increase of 76,877. A substantial increase in primary operations exceeding 1,000 cases was recorded in Rangoon Town (1,571) and in the Toungoo (1,811), Thaton (1,528), Mandalay 1,135) and Pakokku (1,523) Districts. A large decrease was observed in the return of primary operations for the Northern Shan States (5,293), Southern Shan States (3,569), Chin Hills (1,165), Thayetmyo (1,199), Shwebo (1,158), Upper Chindwin (1,085), Mergui (1,792), Akyab (1,492) and Sandoway (1,059). Thirty districts showed an increase in re-vaccination, conspicuous among which are the Rangoon Town District (27,777), Mandalay (16,601), Yamethin (22,868), Sagaing (3,214), Magwe (2,606), Myingyan (1,996), Ma-ubin (1,383), Myitkyina (1,269) and Upper Chindwin (1,014).

The falling-off in primary vaccinations is largely to be explained by the prevalence of influenza during several months of 1918, and the dislocation of routine district work which it involved. The increased activity shown in many districts in performing both primary and re-vaccinations is attributable to the presence or threat of small-pox, particularly in the early months of 1919.

Successful primary operations amounted to 397,720, or an increase of 3,612 on 1917-18 and 7,103 on 1916-17. Successful re-vaccinations totalled 76,588 and exceeded those of 1917-18 by 50,902 and of 1916-17 by 26,517. The percentages of recorded primary operations and re-vaccinations returned as successful were, respectively, 97.83 and 65.27 as compared with 95.88 and 49.74 in 1917-18. In view of the far-reaching effects of the influenza epidemic, it may be said that, on the whole, a decided increase in activity and improvement in inspection of operations has been shown in many districts. Military operations in the Upper Chindwin District and Chin Hills were important factors in reducing the vaccination output in those areas.

The number of primary operations performed in Municipalities and notified areas amounted to 37,594 and of re-vaccinations to 74,078 as compared with 34,330 and 23,836, respectively, in 1917-18. Of the primary cases 35,687 were returned as successful, giving a percentage of 98.40. Of the re-vaccinations 39,991, or 67.31 per cent., were returned as successful. Against an estimated population of 20,177 infants, who survived the first year of life, 22,128 successful primary operations at under one year of age were performed. The excess over estimated births was due to causes explained in previous reports—among which immigration and defective registration of births predominate.

During the year 3,707 operations were performed in dispensaries against 2,787 in 1917-18; of these 2,066 were primary operations with a percentage success of 98.49, and 1,641 re-vaccinations with a success ratio of 67.42. The largest number of vaccinations was performed in the Mandalay Division and in the Myitkyina District, closely approached by the Irrawaddy Division and the Myaungmya District.

Out of an average jail population of 13,521, the number vaccinated during the year was 25,257, of which 22,659 were re-vaccinations.

Amongst the arrivals at the Port of Rangoon 6,055 persons were primarily vaccinated as against 11,330 in the previous year.

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Out of 425,266 persons primarily vaccinated, Civil Surgeons and Health Officers verified 58,170, or 13·68 per cent., against 12·60 per cent. in 1917-18; and Supervisors of Vaccination verified 203,960, or 47·96 per cent., against 53·55 per cent. in the previous year. The proportion verified out of 141,109 re-vaccinations by Civil Surgeons and Health Officers was 8·24 and by Supervisors of Vaccination 46·47—the corresponding ratios in 1917-18 were 7·42 and 46·52. The amount of verification work performed by both classes of officers was, on the whole, satisfactory, though there was a decrease in the volume of work performed by Supervisors of Vaccination.

176. The total expenditure in 1918-19 was Rs. 2,27,709-4-11, which shows an increase on that for 1917-18 of Rs. 6,494-13-11. Rs. 1,43,748-0-1 were spent on pay of the establishment, Rs. 63,034-13-6 on travelling allowance and Rs. 20,926-7-4 on contingencies. The average cost for each successful operation was Re. 0-7-8 against Re. 0-8-5 in the previous year.

Expendi-
ture.

177. The year of report has been one of unexampled activity and productiveness at the Depot. Comparing the outturn and issue of lymph of the year of report with that of 1916-17, the next highest year in order of productivity, the number of calves inoculated in 1918-19 was 523, an increase of 165 on the earlier year; the average yield per calf was 423·5 grains against 365·5 grains; and the issue of 755,923 doses against 726,424. The increased yield of lymph was due to a better class of calf secured under a new system of supply.

Vaccine
Depot,
Moulata.

The nett expenditure of the Depot was Rs. 18,611-5-11, or an increase of Rs. 143-1-0 on that of 1917-18. The larger output of lymph in the year of report, amounting to an increase of 89,130 doses, reduced the cost per dose to 4·73 pies as against 5·32 pies in 1917-18.

CHAPTER VII. INSTRUCTION.

REFERENCES—

258

Report on Public Instruction in Burma for the year 1918-19.
Statistical Abstract for British India, Volumes IV and V.

General System of Public Instruction.

For information on this subject reference should be made to paragraphs 178 to 205 of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1917-18.

Education.

General
progress
and educa-
tional
measures.

178. If educational progress be judged merely by statistics very little advance can be claimed for the year of report. But, while there is little educational expansion to report, the year has been in several ways a year of active preparation making for better educational organization. The labours of the University Committee have brought the idea of a University of Rangoon so near realization that little more than the sanction of the Government of India and the Secretary of State is wanted to convert the idea into a fact. Independently of the University Committee preparations for increased efficiency in Secondary Education have been pushed forward and measures towards that end have been sanctioned, or provisionally approved, or are under consideration by Government. Improvements have been made in curricula. A course in Science has been sanctioned for Anglo-Vernacular High Schools and the whole curriculum for schools for Europeans has undergone revision on lines approved by a Conference of Managers and Heads of the schools affected. By the constitution of Advisory Boards to discuss and make recommendations relating to courses in, and public examination of, secondary schools, a step has been taken towards the co-ordination of Secondary and Higher education, and the department has been strengthened by a closer association with it of non-official skill and experience. New principles and procedure were adopted in the recognition of Anglo-Vernacular and European Schools. Schools are no longer brought on to the register standard by standard, but are recognized once for all as Primary, Middle or High Schools.

The system of educational finance, as it affects Aided and Anglo-Vernacular and European Schools, has been thoroughly overhauled, and a completely revised grants-in-aid Code, after having been placed before and discussed by a Conference of Managers of aided schools, was submitted to Government during the year and has since been sanctioned.

Number of
schools and
scholars and
expenditure.

179. The number of all institutions, public and private, fell from 27,532 to 27,100. Public institutions decreased in number from 9,501 to 9,238. Private institutions decreased from 18,031 to 17,862. Pupils attending the former fell from 383,312 to 377,191, rather more than one and a half per cent. The whole loss occurred in Vernacular Primary Schools. Pupils attending private schools fell from 200,986 to 195,717, more than two and a half per cent. While Vernacular upper primary schools decreased by 405 and pupils by 8,652, lower primary vernacular schools increased by 108 and pupils by 555. Nevertheless, it was in the lower primary standards that the decline in numbers chiefly occurred.

The total expenditure on education during the year was Rs. 77,10,548, or Rs. 39,396 less than in 1917-18. If the seven lakhs odd spent in 1917-18 on the University site be left out of account, the total expenditure of the year from public funds amounted to Rs. 46,12,193 and exceeded expenditure from the same source during the previous year by Rs. 4,07,038. Expenditure from Provincial funds was Rs. 32,08,216, or (not reckoning expenditure on the University

site) Rs. 31,287 less than in 1917-18. Expenditure from local funds was Rs. 10,48,467, or Rs. 3,48,132 in excess of that of the previous year. Expenditure from Municipal funds was Rs. 3,55,510, or Rs. 90,193 more than in 1917-18.

The portion of the total expenditure met from tuition fees was Rs. 23,55,267, or Rs. 2,33,704 above the previous year's figure. Expenditure met from "Other sources," that is to say, endowments, subscriptions and contributions, amounted to Rs. 7,42,088, or Rs. 40,284 more than was met from the same sources in 1917-18. Thus a little more than 30 per cent. of the cost of public education was met from tuition fees, a little less than 10 per cent. from private sources and close on 60 per cent. from public revenues.

The 'direct' expenditure on colleges and schools amounted to Rs. 52,33,912, or Rs. 3,73,810 above the previous year's expenditure. If the cost of the University site is omitted, there was an increase in indirect expenditure under buildings of Rs. 55,836 and in total indirect expenditure of Rs. 3,07,216.

The average expenditure on education per head of population in 1918-19 was As. 10-2, of which As. 6-1 was from public funds. The figures for 1917-18 were As. 10-3 and As. 6-6. The average cost of educating each pupil rose from Rs. 12'6 to Rs. 13'8. There was an increase in every stage and kind of education, except higher education, where the average cost fell from Rs. 359'1 to Rs. 295'4, and lower primary schools, where the average cost was Rs. 2'5 as against Rs. 2'7. The average cost rose in secondary schools from Rs. 25'5 to Rs. 27'7; in upper primary schools from Rs. 5'0 to Rs. 5'6; in training schools from Rs. 316'8 to Rs. 320'5; and in special schools from Rs. 14'7 to Rs. 16.

180. There were one European primary and 16 Anglo-Vernacular schools for boys and 5 Anglo-Vernacular and 3 European primary schools for girls. The total number of Vernacular primary schools for boys fell from 6,663 to 6,336. Vernacular primary schools for girls rose from 926 to 955. The total number of recognized schools of all classes in which primary education is given fell from 9,006 to 8,720 and the number of pupils in primary standards of all schools fell from 348,569 to 341,219, a loss of 6,733 boys and 610 girls. European schools and girls' schools are treated separately below.

Primary
education

Monastic schools, both secondary and primary, have declined from 3,397 to 3,228. The withdrawal of recognition from the 'B' schools, (i.e. schools which receive certain grants-in-aid, but do not follow the departmental curriculum), which seems inevitable in the interests of sound policy and sound finance, will cause a further decline of more than a thousand schools. Pupils attending these monastic schools numbered 91,361 boys and 11,854 girls as compared with 95,127 boys and 8,724 girls in the previous year.

The reports of Inspectors on the working of the special practical curriculum for Primary Schools, introduced as an experimental measure on the initiative of Father Perroy of Thônzè, show that the experiment has failed, but it also seems clear that it never had a chance of success, as the conditions of success were rarely present. The experiment was instituted before the control of Vernacular education was transferred to Divisional Boards, and the Boards never seem to have had the scheme under consideration. It should be tried again under reasonable conditions. If the Boards adopt the newly proposed system of control and financing, this should be quite possible.

Towards the close of 1918 Government communicated to all Commissioners of divisions and to the President of the Rangoon School Board for opinion, a scheme drawn up by the Director of Public Instruction for a new system of finance and control of Vernacular Schools. The proposal was to abolish the existing system of grants-in-aid, results, maintenance and half-salary grants, and to make the Divisional School Boards practically responsible for the maintenance of the schools recognized under their authority. Under this scheme the restrictions of the existing grant rules will be removed, regular payment of salaries of teachers in recognized schools will be rendered possible, and the stability of the schools will be assured; while the Boards will have adequate control over the funds at their disposal and will be able to regulate expenditure strictly in accordance with their financial resources.

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TION.

For reasons very similar to those which led to the institution of "B" schools, an examination in elementary arithmetic, called the *Mulagananthincha* examination, has been held every year since 1913. The candidates are *pōngyis* and *upāsins*, and a reward is given to every one who passes, the object being to encourage teaching according to modern principles in monastic schools. The number of candidates presenting themselves for the examination has steadily increased, the number for 1918-19 being 604, of whom 167 passed. As, however, there was reason to believe that, of the *pōngyis* and *upāsins* who passed, some would have learnt arithmetic in any case, and very many had no intention of becoming teachers, but appeared merely for the sake of the reward, the opinion of Inspectors was invited on the subject. The Inspectors were practically unanimous in declaring that the *Mulagananthincha* examination served no useful purpose and had better be abolished. There was no evidence to show that it was appreciated by the Buddhist priesthood, but some evidence that the priests regarded it with suspicion. The discontinuance of the examination has accordingly been recommended to Government.

Secondary
education.

181. The number of Anglo-Vernacular Secondary schools rose from 135 to 141; of Anglo-Vernacular Secondary schools for girls from 15 to 17; of European Secondary schools for boys from 10 to 11; European Secondary schools for girls numbered 17 as in the previous year. Vernacular Secondary schools for boys rose from 1,112 to 1,120; those for girls fell from 103 to 98. The statistics for European schools and girls' schools are also dealt with separately.

Government managed one European and 37 Anglo-Vernacular schools for boys, but none for girls; 27 Vernacular schools for boys and 7 for girls. The Vernacular schools are being transferred to local control.

The total number of pupils receiving instruction in recognized secondary schools during the year of report was 127,254, or 1,269 above the number for 1917-18. The very great majority of the 127,254 were pupils in the primary stage, the actual number of secondary pupils being 22,212 boys and 3,590 girls. Of these, 1,046 boys and 863 girls were in European schools, 11,566 boys and 1,208 girls in Anglo-Vernacular schools, and 9,600 boys and 1,459 girls in Vernacular schools. The total for 1917-18 was 21,941 boys and 3,351 girls.

The only change of importance in the curriculum for Anglo-Vernacular schools is the adoption of an optional High school course in science. The course was drafted by the committee appointed for the purpose and has been approved by Government.

An Advisory Board for the conduct of the Anglo-Vernacular High School Final Examination was constituted during the year. The members of the Board were appointed by the Director, and represent the Department, Colleges affiliated to the Calcutta University, and the managing and teaching agencies of recognized schools. The Board not only recommends arrangements for the conduct of the examination, but advises the Director in all matters relating to studies in Anglo-Vernacular Schools.

The results of the examinations were as follows —

Examinations.	1917-18.		1918-19.		Percentage 1917-18.	Percentage 1918-19.
	Number presented. (2)	Number passed. (3)	Number presented. (4)	Number passed. (5)		
(1)					(6)	(7)
Matriculation Examination ...	448	266	...	...	...	...
Anglo-Vernacular High School Final ...	531	311	592	304	59	51
High School Examination for Europeans ...	157	77	164	82	49	50
Vernacular High School Exami- nation (Standard IX) ...	190	124	199	137	65	69
European Standard VII ...	297	219	303	209	74	69
Anglo-Vernacular Standard VII	2,690	1,384	2,739	1,318	48	48
Vernacular Standard VII	2,421	1,150	2,718	1,046	46	38

The improved scale of pay of teachers in Government Anglo-Vernacular schools, referred to in last year's Report as having been approved by Government, but still awaiting formal sanction, was sanctioned with effect from the 19th April 1918.

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TION.

Two important conferences were held in December 1918; one to consider a revision of the European school curriculum, the other to consider a revision prepared by the Director of the grants-in-aid rules for European and Anglo-Vernacular schools. The revised rules have since received the sanction of Government.

182. The number of students on the rolls of the two Colleges in Rangoon was at the end of the year of report 800 (Government College 687 and Judson College 113). The total number at the end of 1917-18 was 725 (Government College 615 and Judson College 110). Taking the average number on the rolls, the total figures are 827 and 711, respectively. In Judson College, only Arts courses are provided. Government College provides courses in Science and Law also. In the latter College, there was an appreciable increase in the Department of Law (40 to 53, including 18 candidates for the second grade Pleadership examination), the Law classes being larger than in any year since their institution; a slight rise in the Department of Arts (381 to 393), and a very marked increase in Science (194 to 241).

Collegiate
education.

The Principal of the Government College once more complains that Logic is an unsuitable intermediate subject, but he notes with satisfaction that students are realizing the fact.

The postponement of the intermediate examination from the 17th March to the 22nd April, the prolongation of the examination well into May, and the consequent late announcement of results were very unfortunate, as it was not possible to open the Junior B.A. and B.Sc. Classes, which usually open in June, until the beginning of August. The following is a comparative statement of University examination results in 1917-18 and 1918-19:—

Intermediate	Arts	1918	119 passes out of 198 presented, 60 per cent.
		1919	139 passes out of 203 presented, 68 per cent.
	Science	1918	41 passes out of 68 presented, 60 per cent.
		1919	59 passes out of 80 presented, 74 per cent.
Bachelor degree.	Arts	1918	38 passes out of 76 presented, 50 per cent.
		1919	54 passes out of 79 presented, 68 per cent.
	Science	1918	8 passes out of 16 presented, 50 per cent.
		1919	21 passes out of 29 presented, 72 per cent.
Master of Arts degree		1918	3 passes out of 5 presented, 60 per cent.
		1919	... passes out of 7 presented, ... per cent.
Bachelor of Law degree		1918	4 passes out of 5 presented, 80 per cent.
		1919	14 passes out of 17 presented, 82 per cent.

Private candidates included, there was an increase (except in the M.A.) in the number of candidates presented and in the percentage of passes. The individual colleges show, under most examination heads, an increase in the number of candidates presented and under all heads a higher percentage of passes than in the previous year. Judson College obtained 100 per cent. passes in the B.A. degree examination.

There were numerous changes in the Government College staff, largely owing to the departure and return of Professors on and from military service. One vacancy was for a time filled by a lady, Miss M. Kingsley, M.A. The Principal pronounces the experiment a distinct success. The death, from pneumonia, of Mr. B. B. Banerji, Lecturer in Mathematics, was a great loss to this college. Mr. A. D. Keith, who had been acting for over two years as Lecturer in English, resigned his appointment during the year. The post of additional Professor of Chemistry sanctioned in 1917-18, was filled in the year of report by the appointment of Mr. R. Venkateswaran, a graduate of the Madras University, with high Honours in Chemistry.

All the European and Anglo-Indian students are members of the 18th (Rangoon) Battalion, or the 3rd Rangoon Group Garrison Artillery in the Indian Defence Force. Five students were appointed to the Indian Army Reserve of Officers during the year. Maung Ba Hpu, B.A., Assistant Demonstrator in Chemistry, and Maung Kin Maung of the senior I.Sc. class, were selected for

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TION.

training for a King's Commission at the Training school for Indian Cadets at Indore. Seventy-eight students served with the Indian Defence Force (Non-European Branch) from the 22nd April to the 21st July 1918 at Maymyo and Mandalay. The Government of India have sanctioned the formation of a half company of University volunteers under the Indian Defence Act and it is hoped that this will come into being in the current year. Over 150 students have registered their names for it and Mr. Campbell has undertaken command of the half company.

There were during the year 12 students who held Burma scholarships attending the Medical College at Calcutta, and five students, two men and three women, sat for the Final M.B. Examination. The ladies all passed, the men failed. Three students, including one lady, sat for the First M.B. Examination. All passed. In the Burma Medical School at the close of the year there were 125 students on the rolls. The number of students taught during the year was 147. Of these 80 were Burmans, 56 Indians, 7 Anglo-Indians and 4 Chinese. Twenty students, who passed the third year examination, left for Madras in April 1919 to undergo three months' practical midwifery training at the Government Maternity Hospital. In the Veterinary School at Insein there were 37 pupils at the beginning and 42 at the close of the year.

The total number of candidates for the *Patamabyan* examination rose from 1,329 to 1,426, but the number of successful candidates dropped from 573 to 504. Seventeen nuns sat for the examination as against four last year, and of these, 8 out of 9 passed the *Patama Ngè*, 3 out of 4 the *Patama Lat*, and 2 out of 4 the *Patama Gyi* stage. Thirteen laymen appeared for the *Patamabyan* examination and 3 passed.

There were 39 women students in the two affiliated colleges in 1918-19, as against 27 in the previous year. The success of women candidates in the Intermediate examinations in Arts and Science and in the B.A. degree examination was very gratifying. Of the 17 who sat for these examinations, all but three, who failed in the Intermediate Arts, were successful.

The most important events of the year are those connected with the Rangoon University Scheme. On the 27th March 1919 the Committee appointed to enquire into and report on courses of study and examinations in the proposed University of Rangoon and related matters presented its final report. About the same time the Director of Public Instruction submitted to Government a revised draft bill, first statutes and first regulations of the proposed University, together with financial estimates. The revised drafts were drawn up by Mr. F. Newsbury, Registrar of the Madras University, in consultation with and under the supervision of the Director, and were based on earlier drafts and on the recommendations of the University Committee. The Committee in itself was a strong one, representative of a number of interests and agencies, academic and unacademic, and it was further strengthened by the co-operation of five experts from India who were invited by Government to assist. The report of the Committee has been published separately.

Technical
education.

183. Technical schools are classified as (1) Engineering and Engineering apprentice schools, two schools, both maintained by Government; (2) the Reformatory school maintained by Government; (3) six Technical and Industrial schools; (4) seven Commercial schools; (5) three schools for the Blind; and (6) Survey schools. The Government schools remain as before. A new industrial school has been recognized during the year. One Commercial school was closed and two fresh Commercial schools have been recognized. All these schools, except the Engineering, Reformatory and Survey schools, are under private management. The Reformatory school is dealt with in a later section.

The number of pupils under instruction in the schools enumerated (the Survey schools and schools for the Blind being excluded) rose from 982 to 1,141, but the increase was almost entirely in the Commercial schools, in which the total attendance was 619 as against 467 in 1917-18.

Drawing is still classed as a technical subject. Thirteen European, 113 Anglo-Vernacular and 1,287 Vernacular schools presented candidates for the

Drawing examination as against 28,102 and 1,262 in the previous year. The total number of candidates presented was 74,421 as against 68,029 in 1917-18. The total number of passes was 47,196 as against 41,281. Passes in Drawing for the Teachers' certificate examination fell very heavily, *viz.* from 354 to 160. The number of passes in examinations in other technical subjects was as follows: Vocal Music, 3,622; Cooking, 30; Dress-making, 103; Printing, 11; Book-binding, 13; Carpentry, 208; Weaving, 166; Blacksmith, 2; Tinsmith, 4; Cane-work, 26; Leather work, 9; Lace-making, 326; Slöjd, 2,978; and Needle-work, 8,636.

Gen.
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Instruc-
tion.

Two hundred and ninety-seven schools presented candidates for the school garden examination as against 282 in 1917-18. The Agri-Horticultural Society, Rangoon, again held a competition for gardens in schools in the Pegu and Tenasserim Circles and presented prizes to the successful competitors. There were 25 entries. A similar competition was held in Moulmein. Prizes for school gardens were also awarded to schools in the Irrawaddy, Meiktila and Mandalay Circles.

The number of Survey schools under the control of the Commissioner of Settlements and Land Records continued to be 18. Two hundred students from these schools appeared for the examination in Arithmetic and Revenue Law and 218 for the examination in Surveying. The percentage of success was higher than in the previous year in Revenue Law, but lower in Arithmetic and Surveying.

There were 34 pupils in the Moulmein School for the Blind and 25 in the St. Michael's and St. Mary's Schools for the Blind at Kemmendine. The staff at Kemmendine was increased by one lady teacher for the Girls' School. A new building, since completed, was under construction during the year. In both schools instruction is given in manual work as well as in literary subjects.

184. The number of Normal schools remained unchanged, *viz.* 12. There are five Government and three aided Normal schools for masters and four aided Normal schools for mistresses. To these may be added the Kindergarten section attached to St. Michael's School, Maymyo. The Government Schools for masters all admit women students. Three of the Normal schools are Anglo-Vernacular only, four are vernacular only, the rest train students in both divisions. There are in Rangoon one Normal school to which students of either sex are admitted, two Normal schools for men and two for women.

Training
schools.

The number of students undergoing training in the several grades in the Anglo-Vernacular and Vernacular Normal schools in 1917-18 and 1918-19, respectively, was as follows:—

Grades.	Anglo-Vernacular.				Vernacular.			
	1917-18.		1918-19.		1917-18.		1918-19.	
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
High School Certificate ...	36	8	17	1	15	1	19	1
Middle School Certificate ...	106	28	73	37	176	42	165	49
Primary School Certificate ...	91	29	57	56	16	64	65	86
Elementary Training Class ...	...	...	...	..	158	73	296	118

In the Anglo-Vernacular division there was a notable fall in the number of both men and women students in the higher and primary grades, while there was some increase in the middle grade. The fall in numbers in the primary grade is not to be regretted. In the Vernacular division there is a higher figure in every compartment of the table except that of middle grade men students. The total number of men students under training fell from 400 to 396, while the number of women rose from 222 to 230. There was thus a small increase in the total number.

Thirteen elementary training classes attached to Vernacular schools were opened during the year, thus raising the total number from 19 to 32. These classes are specially valuable in providing training for men and women, who have had actual experience in teaching, but have not been trained in any Normal school. It is contemplated that the elementary training classes will soon replace entirely primary grade classes in Vernacular Normal schools.

The following table shows Anglo-Vernacular examination results. The examinations are conducted by the Educational Syndicate:—

Grades.	Anglo-Vernacular.		Vernacular.	
	1917-18.	1918-19.	1917-18.	1918-19.
High School Certificate ..	19	28	28	22
Middle School Certificate ...	81	63	168	76
Primary School Certificate ..	118	114	445	439

A large fall in the number of Middle and Primary grade candidates, who presented themselves for examination, is to be accounted for by the new rule under which no candidate is permitted to sit for a theoretical test before he has passed the required literary test. The inconsiderable decrease in the number of successes and the much higher percentage of success in 1918-19 proves that the rule has disqualified the unfit. While the total number of successful candidates, Anglo-Vernacular and Vernacular, trained and untrained, was less than last year's number by 117, the number of successful candidates who had previously undergone training rose by 67 (from 310 to 377).

In order to encourage graduates to undergo courses of training, the senior and junior university scholarships, which had in various ways failed of their object, have been abolished, and a clause has been added to the Educational Code under which the Director is empowered to award additional stipends to graduate-students under training. Three graduates are at present in receipt of additional stipends.

185. The number of schools for Europeans has remained unchanged, namely 32; or 17 High, 11 Middle and 4 Primary schools. One European school is a Government school, the rest are aided schools under private management. The total number of European pupils under instruction in all classes and grades of institutions in 1918-19 was 5,575 as against 5,370 in 1917-18. With the exception of 169 pupils in 1917-18 and 175 in 1918-19, who were in Anglo-Vernacular and Vernacular schools, the 5,370 European pupils and students of 1917-18 and the 5,575 European pupils and students of 1918-19 were either in schools for Europeans or in institutions, such as colleges and training schools, which serve the Anglo-Indian Community on the same terms as other communities.

There was a decrease of 13 girls in the high department, of 14 boys in the primary department and of 6 men and 3 women in training schools. Only one European lad was under training. At every other stage there was an increase. The number receiving university training has risen by 50 per cent., from 32 (including 13 women) to 48 (including 21 women). There was a remarkable rise also in the number undergoing training in special schools, chiefly for shorthand and typewriting, from 206 (including 151 women) to 272 (including 202 women).

The total number of pupils in schools for Europeans in 1918-19 was 5,739, of whom 679 or 12 per cent. were non-Europeans. In 1917-18 the figures were 5,605, non-Europeans 703, or 13 per cent. During the year of report the work of inspecting schools for Europeans was assigned to Circle Inspectors. The education of Europeans is mainly carried on in three circles, Rangoon Town, Tenasserim and Mandalay, and is for the most part concentrated in five towns, Rangoon, Moulmei, Toungoo, Mandalay and Maymyo. The number of European pupils in schools for Europeans in the four remaining circles was only 261 out of a total of 5,053.

The inspection reports on schools for Europeans were distinctly favourable. Examination results shewed improvement at every stage, as will be evident from the following table :—

Class.
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Instruction
1918.

		1917-18.			1918-19.		
		Presented.	Passed.	Per cent.	Presented.	Passed.	Per cent.
University ...	{ Degree ...	5	2	40	9	5	55
	{ Intermediate ...	13	11	85	17	13	77
School ...	{ High ...	157	77	49	164	82	50
	{ Middle ...	297	219	74	303	209	69

During the war, teachers, pupils and *ex*-pupils of the European schools rendered good service. Over 60 obtained commissions and between 400 and 500 were on active service on various fronts. Of these 31 were killed in action or died in captivity. Not a few were decorated for distinguished gallantry.

186. The total number of Mahomedans in all classes of institutions, public and private, in 1918-19, was 26,890, being a fall of 939 from the number in the previous year. The decrease is accounted for by private schools, public schools, showing a slight advance.

Education of
Mahome-
dians and
special
classes.

In schools for Mahomedans there were 11,169 pupils in 214 recognized schools of which 6 were Anglo-Vernacular schools as against 10,358 pupils in 215 schools in 1917-18. Thus in recognized schools specially maintained for Mahomedans, there has been an appreciable expansion. The number of private Mahomedan schools has remained the same, namely 333, but the number of pupils is said to have fallen by 796. If we class the Mahomedan pupils in recognized institutions according to the grade of institution, the figures for the two years are :—

		(1917-18).	(1918-19).
Collegiate ...	...	39	53
Secondary ...	...	6,046	6,102
Primary ...	...	12,575	12,456
Total ...	...	18,660	18,651

Mahomedans under instruction in public schools form 5.1 of the total number of pupils in the high stage, 5.3 of the total in the middle stage and 5.3 of the total in high and middle stages taken together.

The number of Mahomedan girls under instruction has fallen in public schools from 4,644 to 4,480 and in private schools from 2,811 to 2,357. In lower primary vernacular public schools the number of girls fell by 364, but there was an increase of nearly 400 in vernacular schools of higher grades and of 6 in Anglo-Vernacular schools.

The increased number of Mahomedan girls on the rolls of schools of the better class and the smaller number on the rolls of inferior schools suggest the inference that conditions obtaining in the latter schools, and not increased disinclination towards education on the part of parents, are responsible for the lower total figures. If the inference were extended to vernacular schools generally it would probably be correct.

In public examinations Mahomedan students have, on the whole, acquitted themselves better in 1918-19 than in the previous year. The comparative figures are—

		(1917-18).	(1918-19).
University ...	{ Degree ...	3	7
	{ Intermediate ...	19	22
Schools ...	{ High ...	20	24
	{ Middle ...	98	122

The total number of recognized schools for special classes has decreased by 48 and the total number of pupils in these schools by 1,326. Karens show a loss of 47 schools and 1,001 pupils. The total number of recognized special schools in 1917-18 and 1918-19, respectively, was : schools, 1,704 and 1,656 ; pupils, 55,137 and 53,811.

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TION.

There were in 1917-18, 39 Anglo-Vernacular Schools for special classes with 6,308 pupils. In 1918-19 the number of schools rose to 40 and the number of pupils to 6,537.

The number of private schools for special classes rose from 1,226 to 1,328 and the number of pupils by 605 (from 16,314 to 16,919).

The total number of pupils belonging to special classes in all kinds of recognized schools fell, according to the statistics, from 73,777 to 72,367. The following classes share in the decline: Karens, Chins, Taungthus, Shans, Palaungs and Danus. The establishment of an Elementary Training Class at Yawnghwe should help the progress of Shan education. Higher figures appear against Taluings, Kachins, Lahus and Lawas, Chinese and Indian races.

The steady increase of Tamil and Telugu schools and pupils in Rangoon is noted by the Inspector of Schools, Rangoon Town Circle. Tamil and Telugu candidates have acquitted themselves very creditably in the public examinations of the year. The Inspector of Schools, Tenasserim Circle, remarks on the good work done by the Tamil school in Moulmein.

Amongst the special classes are included Chinese. There are four recognized Anglo-Chinese schools, all under the management of Christian missionaries. There are no recognized Vernacular Chinese schools; and only 15 unrecognized, with about 1,100 pupils, are recorded. There are known to be many more and the appointment of a Supervisor of Chinese schools will probably induce more of them to seek recognition.

Female
education.

187. The number of girls in public institutions fell slightly during the year from 116,613 to 116,514. The chief loss was in Vernacular primary schools, which had over 1,200 fewer girl pupils. At almost every other stage there was an increase. The number of girls in Arts Colleges rose from 27 to 39 and in training schools from 212 to 236. Special schools, chiefly Commercial schools, contained 681 pupils—an increase of 236.

There was a satisfactory increase in the number of European girls attending Colleges and Training schools. The number of girls under instruction in European schools was slightly above the previous year's figure. In Anglo-Vernacular schools the total figures in all grades were higher by 480 than in 1917-18. Girls in Vernacular schools were fewer by 869 than in the previous year, though there were more girls' schools. In private schools 5,273 girls are said to have received instruction as against 5,827 in 1917-18. The number of girls in girls' schools, public and private, rose by 694, that is to say, from 31,999 to 32,693.

Government maintained seven Vernacular Secondary schools, but no European or Anglo-Vernacular schools for girls. Aided European schools for girls numbered 20 as in 1917-18, Anglo-Vernacular 22 (an increase of 3) and Vernacular 1,046 (an increase of 24).

As in the previous year women students were, in proportion to their numbers, more successful in University examinations than men. The same holds good this year of High School examinations.

The following statement gives details of girl candidates for the two years:—

Grades.	1917-18.			1918-19.		
	Presented.	Passed.	Per cent.	Presented.	Passed.	Per cent.
B.A. Degree examination ...	3	3	67	2	2	100
Intermediate Examination in Arts ...	17	11	65	12	7	58
Intermediate Examination in Science ...	...	...	...	5	5	100
Anglo-Vernacular High School Final ...	38	27	71	41	27	66
European High School ...	66	39	59	71	40	56

Reformatory
School,
Insein.

188. In the Reformatory School, the year opened with 80 boys on the rolls and closed with 87, of whom 51 were Burmans, the remainder being Indians, Chinese and Indo-Burmans. The daily average population was 83 as against 72 in the

previous year. Thirty-one boys were admitted during the year, 19 of whom were Burmans, 10 Indians and 1 Chinese. Twenty boys were released in the course of the year on completing their period of detention, two were discharged for ill-health and two died in the school infirmary. The sanitary condition of the school was satisfactory, and the boys on the whole enjoyed good health, notwithstanding a slight epidemic of influenza, which was indirectly the cause of one of the two deaths recorded. The Superintendent is able to report a marked improvement in discipline and general conduct. Thirty-six punishments were inflicted on 27 boys: in 23 cases the offence was "being found in possession of tobacco." In the previous year punishments were inflicted on 74 occasions, 56 of the punishments being for insubordination, and 48 boys in all were punished. Sums amounting to Rs. 487 were earned in gratuities paid for success in passing examinations in the trades taught in the school. Seven boys were sent out of the school on license as against 4 in the previous year. They are reported to be working satisfactorily. Religious instruction continued to be given by *Sayade U Nyaneinda*, who, with the assistance of six other *pangyis*, examined 44 boys in Scripture, 34 of whom were successful. Sixteen boys were examined in carpentry, 18 in tinsmith work, 16 in shoe-making and 15 in cane work; all of these passed. In the standard examinations conducted by the Deputy Inspector of Schools, 47 boys secured promotion out of 55 presented. The results of the examinations, both technical and literary, are highly creditable to the teaching staff. Games were played as usual and the annual athletic sports meeting was held in December 1918. The Superintendent is to be congratulated on the efficient conduct of the school during the year.

Chap.
VII—
Education
1919.

Literature and the Press.

189. There was a further decline in the number of publications from 316 to 167, and the decrease which began in 1914, has doubtless been accelerated by the increasing cost of production and the difficulty of obtaining paper. Ninety works were in Burmese, 18 in English or in Burmese and English, 29 in Pali or in Pali and Burmese, 13 in Tamil and the remainder in Chin, Karen, Kachin and other languages. There were 74 works on religion, which is a smaller proportion than usual, besides 10 dramas, 13 works on language, 8 works of fiction and 40 miscellaneous works, such as bye-laws of co-operative credit societies, rules of associations and the like.

Publications
registered.

The great majority of the religious works were Buddhist discourses and moral precepts, commentaries on or editions of the Buddhist Scriptures, and books of prayer. The Tamil publications in this class comprised seven Hindu religious books. Translations of Christian Scriptures, prayers and hymns were also published in Burmese and other Vernaculars of the Province by the American Baptist Mission. One so-called religious work, with a pronounced political bias, was proscribed by the Local Government, as calculated to throw contempt upon Christian ideals and to belittle the cause of the Allies.

The increase of dramatic works from 4 to 10 was accompanied by a change in the type of play, and some of the new plays were based, not on the usual classical and historical themes, but on the adventures of ordinary human beings, though the marvellous element is occasionally introduced. The type of novel published showed no improvement and was characterised by a complete absence of any originality in plot or construction. The almost invariable theme is the love affairs and intrigues of a young man or school boy moulded, as far as circumstances permit, on the model of Don Juan.

The works on language comprise a new Burmese-English Dictionary, a Pali Grammar and other miscellaneous educational works. The five historical works include a Burmese translation of a History of Arabia, an account in Burmese of the United States, a Pali-Burmese History of the Zatngaya Pagoda, the legend of Mandalay Hill, and a short History of China, the last two both in Burmese. Only two legal works were published, namely a Burmese translation of the Indian Penal Code and a Digest of Civil Rulings in Burma.

CHAP.
VII.—
INSTRUC-
TION.
Presses,
newspapers
and
periodicals.

190. Excluding the three Government Presses at Rangoon and Maymyo, the number of presses in the Province increased by one from 154 to 155. Fourteen presses were closed and fifteen new ones were opened during the year. The number of presses in Manda ay increased by two, and in the Hanthawaddy and Prome Districts by one each, while the Akyab, Pyapon and Kyaukse Districts each showed a decrease of one. Elsewhere there was no change in the net number of presses working at the end of the year. Of the total of 155 presses, 67 were situated in Rangoon and 30 in Mandalay.

Owing to an increase in Rangoon from 40 to 43, the number of newspapers published rose from 50 to 53. Of those published elsewhere, four were published in Mandalay, three in Bassein, two in Akyab and one in Moulmein. Of the eleven daily newspapers, three were published in English, four in Burmese, two in English and Burmese, one in Chinese and one in Tamil. Of the newspapers not published daily, seventeen were in English, seven in Burmese, six in English and Burmese, seven in Karen, two in Kachin, and one each in Urdu, Chinese and Gujarati.

The number of periodical publications, other than newspapers and Government publications, decreased from 30 to 28, of which twenty-one were published in Rangoon, five in Mandalay and two in Toungoo. Eleven were written in English, eleven in Burmese, two in English and Burmese, three in Karen and one in Tamil, the figures being much the same as in the previous year.

Literary Societies.

See paragraph 294 of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1911-12.

Rangoon
Societies.

191. There were ten societies, the same number as in the previous year. They were the Literary Society, the Rangoon Teachers' Association, the Bernard Free Library, the Agri-Horticultural Society, the Bar Library Association, the Rangoon Pleaders' Association, the Buddhist Propaganda Society, the Young Men's Buddhist Association, the Burma Moslem Society and the Burma Research Society. Members of the Literary Society increased from 160 to 170 and subscriptions received from Rs. 7,295 to Rs. 8,097. Additions to the library numbered 427, but difficulty was experienced in getting out shipments of books.

Lectures on technical subjects and on the war were delivered in the hall of the Rangoon Teachers' Association, but visitors to the Reading Room and Library declined from 8,368 to 6,987.

The Bernard Free Library contained 10,735 volumes at the end of the year, or an increase of 229 volumes. The number of registered borrowers also increased by 156 to 2,055. The returns for the year of report showed a monthly average of 506 readers in the General Department, 94 readers in the Manuscript Department and 771 books on loan. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 789, 75, and 867, respectively. The collecting of ancient manuscripts, towards which the Government of India make an annual recurring grant of Rs. 1,300, made steady progress, and 13 defective Talaing manuscripts, already in the library, were completed and 30 volumes of ancient Talaing manuscripts were bound. The balance at the end of the year rose from Rs. 4,027 to Rs. 5,098.

The Bar Library Association and the Pleaders' Association had an uneventful year. The latter body offered suggestions for facilitating the working of the Courts and some of the recommendations made were accepted and acted on.

The Buddhist Propaganda Society held three successful meetings and its membership increased from 1,879 to 1,907.

The Young Men's Buddhist Association displayed considerable activity during the year and discussed religious, educational and political questions at both public and private meetings. Resolutions were passed with reference to the control of rice, the Burma Reforms Scheme and the new University for Burma and a recommendation was made that Government should pass a Burma Pagoda Trust Act on lines suggested by the Association. The membership of the Association in

Rangoon was 177 as compared with 175 in the previous year, but there are also numerous branches of the Association in the districts.

The Burma Moslem Society had 167 members as compared with 171 in the previous year. It had an uneventful year.

Arts and Sciences.

192. The general condition of art workers in the Province showed no improvement during the year. Owing to the war, buyers were few, money was scarce, and in addition, native products were faced with the competition of cheaply manufactured fancy articles imported from Japan and other countries. Owing to the high prices of silk, the silk-weaving industry at Mandalay and Amarapura languished somewhat, but for the same reason there was some revival in the manufacture of Burmese wearing apparel in the Yaw area of the Pakōkku District, where a peculiar mixture of silk and cotton cloth is woven. The scarcity and high price of imported cotton cloth also gave some impetus to domestic weaving in Lower Burma. The Saunders Weaving Institute at Amarapura in the Mandalay District continued to instruct students, and during the year the Local Government sanctioned the grant of advances not exceeding Rs. 5,000 to passed pupils of the Institute to enable them to start work. A small weaving school was also started at Ye-u in the Shwebo District with three looms of a modern type, but its progress was hampered by the high price of yarn.

The Annual Art Exhibition was held at Rangoon in January 1919, and though there was a decline in the total number of exhibits, competitors from the districts were well represented. The quality of the exhibits was generally good and the low relief silver work sent in was of a very high order of merit. Ivory-carving and niello-work gave evidence of careful and accurate craftsmanship, but the specimens of wood-carving shown were lacking in finish and the exhibits of pottery and lacquer-work were not in any way distinguished. The manufacture of painted umbrellas, more especially at Bassein, showed some signs of expansion. The system of art apprenticeships was continued and sixteen apprentices, of whom seven were resident at the Government Engineering School at Insein, received stipends from Government.

CHAPTER VIII.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

REFERENCES—

Report of the Superintendent, Archaeological Survey, Burma, for the year 1918-19.

193. Financial considerations necessitated some curtailment of the proposed archaeological programme of the year of report, and the absence on leave of the Assistant Superintendent for Epigraphy for a portion of the year caused the postponement of certain items of the epigraphical programme, but, despite these handicaps, substantial progress was made in both branches of the work of the department. The writing of the letter press of the monograph on the 500 terra-cotta plaques from the Petleik Pagoda at Pagan has been begun, and the monograph on the 400 plaques from the Ananda Pagoda, also at Pagan, has been completed and is in the press. On the epigraphical side the translation with historical and philological notes of twenty inscriptions from among those collected by King Bodawpaya was completed, and the arduous work of compiling an exhaustive list of inscriptions found in Burma has been at length accomplished. A supplementary work, which will contain the names of all historical persons, places, monuments and incidents of historic interest contained in the six published volumes of inscriptions and in the two volumes of the *Hma-nan-ye-sewin*, has been taken in hand.

Definite steps have been taken towards improving the Palace gardens at Mandalay and a comprehensive programme of requirements for the conservation of the Palace itself has been drawn up. Progress has been made with the preparation of a large scale map of Pagan and proposals for linking up the most important pagodas in that historic site by a system of broad roads are under consideration. The Ancient Monuments Preservation Act was extended to two areas in the Akyab District, where the voluntary work of Maung San Shwe Bu, Honorary Archaeological Officer for Arakan, has succeeded in arousing among the Arakanese an intelligent and appreciative interest in the preservation and restoration of their monumental antiquities. The current year has, however, been barren as regards the discovery of new inscriptions or other objects of archaeological interest.

The attention of the staff was also devoted to a consideration of several important problems of philological and ethnographic interest. Of these, the most important was perhaps an investigation into the origin of the Shan alphabet, which the Superintendent, Mr. Taw Sein Ko, C.I.E., is inclined to believe was derived from Tibetan rather than Burmese or Talaing sources. The amount expended, on archaeological works was Rs. 50,255 as compared with Rs. 11,303 in 1917-18. The Mandalay Division was responsible for Rs. 44,730 of the total expenditure, and this amount was mainly spent on the restoration and preservation of the Palace, and of monasteries and tombs in Mandalay town. The Government of India have sanctioned a grant of Rs. 9,600 from Imperial revenues in 1918-19 and have intimated their intention of making a further grant of Rs. 25,157 in 1919-20, towards the cost of conserving the Palace at Mandalay. The cost of the Archaeological Survey rose from Rs. 32,824 to Rs. 37,256 in the year of report.

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

REFERENCES—

- Report of the Chemical Examiner to the Government of Burma for the year 1918.
Report on the working of the Pasteur Institute and Bacteriological Laboratory for the year ending 31st March 1919.
Statistical Abstract for British India, Volume IV.
Report on the working of the Office of the Superintendent, Government Printing, Burma, for the year ending 31st March 1919.

Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

See paragraphs 279 to 300 of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1911-12.

Ecclesiastical.

194. During the year the Ven. Archdeacon Blandford retired and the Bishop appointed the Rev. G. H. Seeley, to be Archdeacon and Bishop's Commissary, in his place. The Rev. J. H. Collins also was accidentally killed, and no Chaplains returned from military duty. This resulted in two stations served by the Burma Establishment, Port Blair and Dagshai, being vacant for part of the year. The same shortage of staff as was felt last year in the Chaplaincies of the Additional Clergy Society continued through the year of report.

Stationery.

195. The bulk of the paper used for official purposes continued to be supplied by the Controller of Printing, Stationery and Stamps, Calcutta, from the Indian mills. The cost of stationery supplied to General Departments and Government Presses in Burma during the year amounted to Rs. 71,646 and Rs. 3,30,179, respectively, showing increases of Rs. 3,643 and Rs. 1,06,323, respectively, over the figures of the previous year. The increases are chiefly due to a further rise in the price of paper during the year of report.

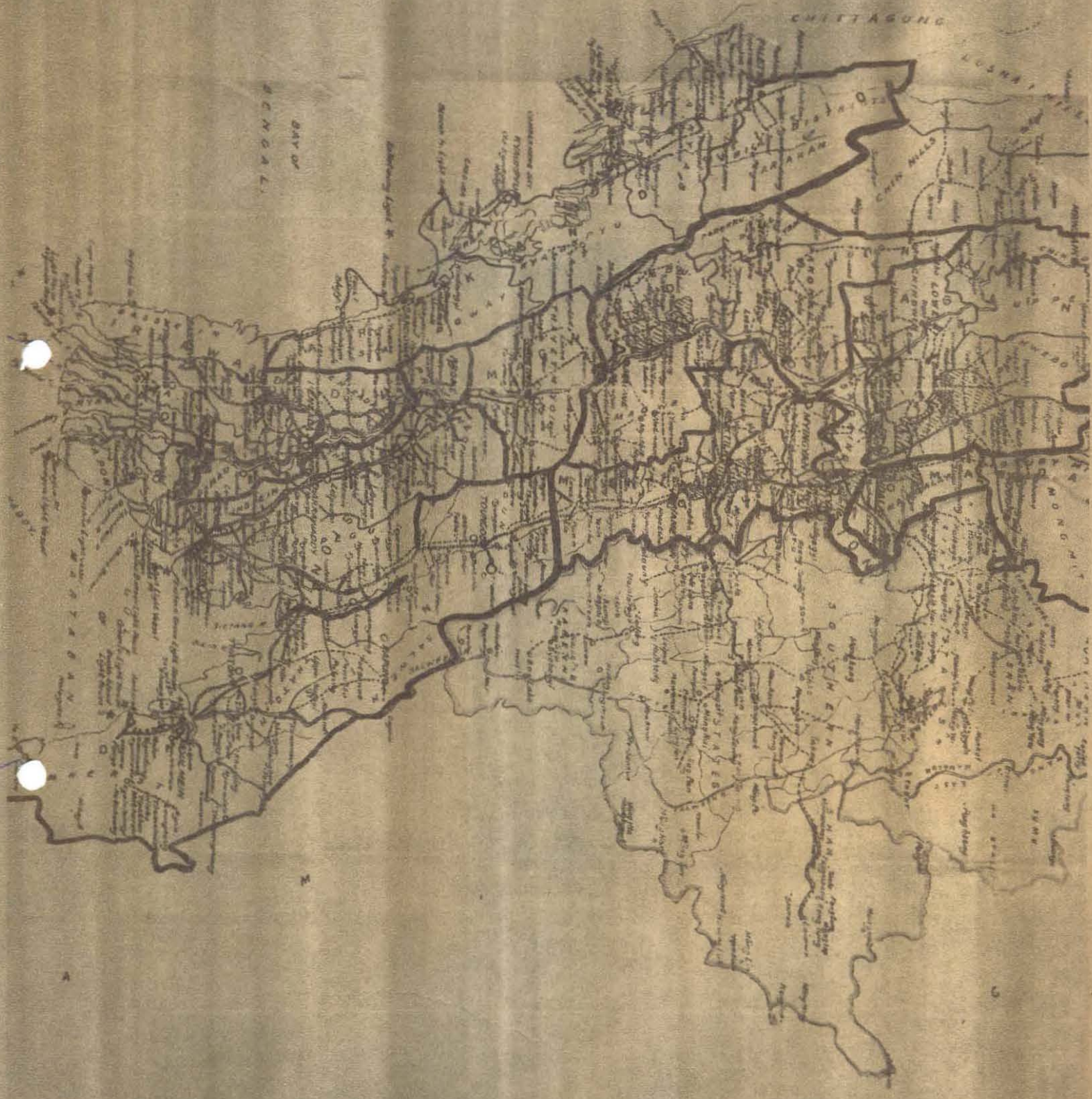
Offices of the Chemical Examiner and the Bacteriologist to the Government of Burma.

196. There was a slight fall in the number of articles examined for medico-legal purposes from 1,817 in the preceding year to 1,774 in the year of report. The drop is attributable to fewer articles being received for examination from the Excise Department. There was a decrease of 44 cases of human poisoning investigated and of five of animal poisoning. Stain cases also decreased by 139. In the general Analytical Department only 6,523 articles were examined as against 17,883 in 1917. The cause for the continued decrease is ascribed to fewer samples of cocaine being received for examination. Two hundred and fifty-nine samples of water were examined during the year of report as against 315 in the year previous. The work done at the Bacteriological Laboratory during the year of report consisted of 124 histological and 1,127 bacteriological and serum examinations in addition to 900 protective inoculations, as against 127, 908 and 535, respectively, for the year ending the 31st March 1918.

CHAP. IX.—
MINOR
LABOURS.

Office of the Superintendent, Government Printing, Burma.

197. The work which is carried out in the three Government Presses, viz. the Central Press and the Jail Branch Press, both in Rangoon, and the Maymyo Branch Press, is chiefly printing for Government Departments. The receipts rose from Rs. 48,714 to Rs. 55,858, and the expenditure from Rs. 3,11,938 to Rs. 3,27,223, in the year of report. The increase in expenditure is chiefly due to high prices of stores as compared with the prices of the previous year and to additional staff entertained for special maps of the Akyab District. The cost of work done in the Central Press was Rs. 2,67,090, in the Jail Branch Press Rs. 88,740, and in the Maymyo Branch Press Rs. 16,161—in all Rs. 3,71,992. The corresponding total for 1917-18 was Rs. 3,48,772. The value of the dead stock at the three Presses, exclusive of lands and buildings, was estimated at the close of the year to be Rs. 5,92,600, or Rs. 39,030 less than in the previous year. The decrease is chiefly due to the depreciated value of the stock. The value of the sales (excluding those of Gazettes) made to the public at the Book Depot and by the authorized agents amounted to Rs. 15,346 against Rs. 12,617 in the previous year, and the additions to stock were valued at Rs. 53,720. Acts and publications supplied free during the year were valued at Rs. 24,031 against Rs. 37,344 in the previous year. Like the preceding year there was a reduction in the quantity of work done in every department of the Central Press, except the map section, which worked at high pressure throughout. Considerable economy was effected in printing and paper by the reduction in size of a large number of forms and in binding materials by the use of cheaper qualities and of old boards for registers and ledgers. On the recommendation of the Provincial Resources Committee the stock of Survey of India maps at the Book Depot was considerably enlarged and copies of all maps relating to Burma were obtained and made available for sale to the public and supply to Government Officers.



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